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Commission on the Status of Women

Report on the fifty-eighth session
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Note

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Summary

At its fifty-eighth session, the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15, considered as its priority theme "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls"; it also considered as its review theme "Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work", evaluating progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from its fifty-fifth session. It further considered an emerging issue, "Women's access to productive resources".

As part of its consideration of these themes, the Commission held one high-level round table and five panel discussions.

The Commission adopted agreed conclusions on the priority theme. These include references to existing commitments; assessments of the situation of women and girls in regard to each of the Millennium Development Goals; critical issues related to gender equality and the empowerment of women that were not adequately addressed by the Millennium Development Goals; and factors that have held back the achievement of the Goals for women and girls. The Commission urges all stakeholders to take action in the following five areas:

(a) Realizing women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights;

(b) Strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(c) Maximizing investments in gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(d) Strengthening the evidence base for gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(e) Ensuring women's participation and leadership at all levels and strengthening accountability.

With respect to the post-2015 development agenda, the Commission calls for gender equality, the empowerment of women and human rights of women and girls to be reflected as a stand-alone goal and to be integrated through targets and indicators into all goals of any new development framework. It also calls for review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and for commemorative activities to be undertaken for the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

The Commission's work on the priority theme and its agreed conclusions constitute an input to the 2014 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council.

In addition, the Commission adopted:

(a) By a recorded vote, a resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women", for action by the Economic and Social Council;

(b) A decision for adoption by the Council, entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-eighth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission";

(c) By a recorded vote, a resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS";

(d) A resolution entitled "Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts";

(e) A resolution entitled "Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters".

The Commission further decided to take note of the report of its Working Group on Communications and to include it in the present report in its entirety.

[4 April 2014]

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Agreed conclusions on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls

1. The following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission are transmitted to the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/1, as an input to the 2014 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council.

Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls*

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth and fifteenth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

2. The Commission reaffirms that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Optional Protocols thereto, as well as other relevant conventions and treaties, provide an international legal framework and a comprehensive set of measures for the elimination and prevention of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

3. The Commission reaffirms that the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is an essential contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

4. The Commission also reaffirms the international commitments made at relevant United Nations summits and conferences in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in the Programme of Action at the International Conference on Population and Development and its key actions for its further implementation.

5. The Commission further reaffirms the commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women made at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, the 2005 World Summit, the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2010, and the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2013. It also reaffirms the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond.

6. The Commission acknowledges the important role played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives and their follow-up mechanisms, in their respective regions and countries, in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.

7. The Commission reaffirms the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", which recognized, inter alia, the vital role of women in achieving sustainable development and resolved to unlock the potential of women as drivers, agents and equal beneficiaries of sustainable development.

8. The Commission also reaffirms the commitment to the full and effective implementation of and follow-up to all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, as well as relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, and recalls relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council, in the area of gender equality, the empowerment of women and human rights of women and girls. It also reaffirms its previous agreed conclusions, including, inter alia, on women and the economy and on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.

9. The Commission recalls Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013) on women, peace and security and all relevant Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, including resolutions 1882 (2009), 1998 (2011), 2068 (2012) and 2143 (2014).

10. The Commission recognizes the important role of the United Nations system, in particular of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, which contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls at the global, regional and national levels; in tracking progress of the Millennium Development Goals to support targeted measures in key areas of women's empowerment; and in assisting States, upon their request, in their efforts.

11. The Commission reaffirms that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, including the right to development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, and also reaffirms the need to take measures to ensure that every person is entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, and that equal attention and urgent consideration should be given to the promotion, protection and full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

12. The Commission reaffirms that gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and enjoyment of their human rights and the eradication of poverty are essential to economic and social development, including the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission notes the universal context of gender equality and recognizes that almost 15 years

after the Millennium Development Goals were launched, no country has achieved equality for women and girls and significant levels of inequality between women and men persist, although the Goals are important in efforts to eradicate poverty and of key importance to the international community. The Commission reaffirms the vital role of women as agents of development and recognizes that gender equality and the empowerment of women must be achieved to realize the unfinished business of the Goals and accelerate sustainable development beyond 2015.

13. The Commission recognizes that increasing women's economic empowerment is central to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It stresses that investing in women and girls has a multiplier effect on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth and that women's economic independence is vital to their role as full and equal partners for development and essential to the achievement of the Goals, including the eradication of poverty. The Commission recognizes that the achievement of the Goals requires the full integration of women into the formal economy, in particular into economic decision-making, which means changing the current gender-based division of labour so that women and men enjoy equal treatment.

14. The Commission recognizes that care work, both paid and unpaid, and care services are of key importance in achieving the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls, and further recognizes that caregiving is a critical societal function which involves shared responsibility.

15. The Commission acknowledges the important contribution of migrant women in realizing the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizes that impediments to accessing employment, vocational training, housing, schooling, health services and social services, as well as other services that, in accordance with national legislation, are intended for use by the public, contribute to the vulnerability of migrants.

16. The Commission welcomes the commitments and concerted policy action at national, regional and global levels to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls. The Commission recognizes the innovative efforts by some countries in the implementation of the Goals for women and girls by adapting targets to local contexts and reporting on a broader range of issues related to gender equality and the empowerment of women than the Goals specifically addressed, including on human rights of women and girls.

17. The Commission welcomes progress made for women and girls in several areas of the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizes the importance of goal 3 in signalling gender equality and women's empowerment as a global priority. It especially welcomes the significant progress made towards eliminating gender disparity in primary education enrolment and on increasing the proportion of women in national parliaments in some regions.

18. The Commission is deeply concerned that overall progress for women and girls across all the Millennium Development Goals remains slow and uneven, including on goal 3, both within and between countries, and that lack of progress on gender equality has hindered progress towards all of the Goals. It is especially concerned about the lack of progress for poverty-stricken regions and areas and for marginalized, vulnerable and disadvantaged women

and girls and those women and girls who experience multiple forms of discrimination and inequalities of any kind.

19. The Commission notes and expresses deep concern with regard to Millennium Development Goal 1 (eradicating extreme poverty and hunger), that poverty impedes women's empowerment and progress towards gender equality, and that the feminization of poverty persists, and recognizes that significant gender gaps in employment rates and wages persist. The Commission is concerned that owing to, inter alia, socioeconomic inequalities and persistent discrimination in labour markets, women are more likely than men to be in precarious, vulnerable, gender-stereotyped and low paying forms of employment; bear a disproportionate share of unpaid care work; be engaged in the informal economy; and have less access to full and productive employment and decent work, social protection and pensions, which increases their risk of poverty, relative to men, particularly if they are living in households without other adult earners. It further notes that discriminatory norms contribute to women's and girls' greater vulnerability to extreme poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition and that girls and older women each face different and particular challenges. The Commission notes that current poverty measures do not adequately reflect women's vulnerability to poverty, owing to inadequate data, inter alia, on income distribution within households. The Commission is further concerned that the targets on hunger also remain unmet, with adverse consequences for the health, livelihoods and well-being of women and girls. It notes the importance of food security and nutrition for achieving goal 1 and the need to address gender gaps in the fight against hunger, and recognizes that insufficient priority is given to addressing malnutrition in women and girls.

20. The Commission notes that with regard to Millennium Development Goal 2 (achieving universal primary education), significant progress has been made in net primary school enrolments and towards eliminating gender disparity in primary education enrolment, but expresses concern that the heavy focus on numbers has resulted in less focus on completion, educational quality and learning outcomes. The Commission further notes the lack of progress in closing gender gaps in access to, retention in and completion of secondary education, which has been shown to contribute more strongly than primary school attendance to the achievement of gender equality, the empowerment of women, and the human rights of women and girls and several positive social and economic outcomes. The majority of youth lacking basic education are young women. Notwithstanding the progress made more needs to be done where progress remains uneven within groups and between countries to achieve the targets by 2015.

21. The Commission notes that with regard to Millennium Development Goal 3 (promoting gender equality and empowering women), progress has been slow, with persistent gender disparities in some regions in secondary and tertiary education enrolment; the lack of economic empowerment, autonomy and independence for women, including a lack of integration into the formal economy, unequal access to full and productive employment and decent work, underrepresentation in non-agricultural wage employment, overrepresentation in low paid jobs and gender-stereotyped jobs like domestic and care work, and the lack of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value; the unequal

burden of unpaid care work and insufficient measures to reconcile paid work and care responsibilities; the persistence of discriminatory attitudes, norms, stereotypes and legal frameworks; insufficient social protection and insurance coverage for women; and, despite progress, the low proportion and unequal participation and representation of women at all levels of decision-making, including in national parliaments and other governance structures.

22. The Commission notes that with regard to Millennium Development Goal 4 (reducing child mortality), taking into account the important interconnections between women's and children's health and gender equality and empowerment of women, significant progress has been made in reducing child mortality globally, including through the efforts to eliminate new HIV infections and vertical transmissions in children, to combat malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea, hunger and anaemia and by addressing other factors including the lack of access to vaccines, but the targets are likely to be missed. The Commission notes with deep concern that child deaths are increasingly concentrated in the poorest regions and in the first month of life, and expresses concern that children are at greater risk of dying before the age of 5 if they are born in rural and remote areas or to poor households. The Commission also notes with deep concern that some regions have higher female under-five mortality rates owing to discriminatory practices. The Commission recognizes that progress on reducing child mortality is linked with women's access to health-care services, safe drinking water, sanitation and housing, as well as mothers' basic education and nutrition.

23. The Commission notes that with regard to Millennium Development Goal 5 (improving maternal health), progress towards its two targets, to reduce maternal mortality and to achieve universal access to reproductive health, has been particularly slow and uneven, especially for the poorest and rural sectors of the population, within and across countries. It notes that the number of preventable maternal deaths continues to be unacceptably high and that adolescent girls face higher risks. It further expresses concern about the significant gaps in funding that remain and the magnitude of the unmet need for all sexual and reproductive health-care services, including emergency obstetric services and skilled attendance at delivery; safe and effective contraception, services for the complications of unsafe abortion and safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law; and prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, among others, through the primary health-care system with effective referral to higher levels of care. The Commission further notes continuing challenges to progress, including failure to protect and fulfil reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, poor nutrition and heavy workloads for pregnant women.

24. The Commission notes that with regard to Millennium Development Goal 6 (combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases), progress has been limited, with the number of women living with HIV increasing globally since 2001. It also notes the particular vulnerability to HIV infection of adolescent girls and young women, as well as other women and girls who are at a higher risk. It stresses that structural gender inequalities and violence against women

and girls undermine effective HIV responses and the need to give full attention to increasing the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, including through the provision of health-care services, inter alia, sexual and reproductive health-care services. It further notes the challenges faced by women and girls living with HIV and AIDS, including stigma, discrimination and violence. The Commission further notes that, despite increased global and national investments in malaria control, which have resulted in decreasing the burden of malaria in many countries and the elimination of malaria in some countries, malaria prevention and control efforts, particularly for pregnant women, must rapidly increase in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

25. The Commission notes that with regard to Millennium Development Goal 7 (environmental sustainability), while progress has been made globally in access to safe drinking water, progress on access to basic sanitation has been particularly slow, and the target is likely to be missed, with serious implications for women and girls, especially those living in vulnerable conditions. The Commission expresses concern that the lack of access to safe drinking water particularly affects women and girls and that they frequently bear the burden for its collection in rural and urban areas, and further recognizes the need for further improvement in this regard. The Commission further notes that the lack of adequate sanitation facilities disproportionately affects women and girls, including their labour force and school participation rates, and increases their vulnerability to violence. The Commission further notes that women and girls are often disproportionally affected by desertification, deforestation, natural disasters and climate change owing to gender inequalities and the dependence of many women on natural resources for their livelihoods.

26. The Commission notes with regard to Millennium Development Goal 8 (developing a global partnership for development) that the development resources, including official development assistance, in support of gender equality and women's empowerment are essential and remain inadequate to the task. The Commission also notes that the global economic crisis and the shifts to austerity measures taken by some countries have impacted women and girls negatively, with a reduction in investment in social sectors. It also notes that a gender gap in access to information and communications technologies persists.

27. The Commission is concerned that several indicators to monitor the Millennium Development Goals are not disaggregated by sex, age and other factors and therefore do not provide sufficient information about the situation of women and girls throughout their life cycle, including those on poverty, hunger, environmental sustainability and a global partnership for development, while others are still limited, such as those related to goal 3, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

28. The Commission is concerned that several critical issues related to gender equality and the empowerment of women were not adequately addressed by the Millennium Development Goals such as, inter alia: violence against women and girls; child, early and forced marriage; women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid work, particularly unpaid care work; women's access to decent work, the gender wage gap, employment in the informal

sector, low-paid and gender-stereotyped work such as domestic and care work; women's equal access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources, including land, energy and fuel, and women's inheritance rights; women's sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences; universal health coverage; non-communicable diseases; accountability for violations of human rights of women and girls; and women's full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels. The Commission recognizes that unless all dimensions of gender inequality are addressed, gender equality, the empowerment of women and the realization of human rights of women and girls cannot be achieved.

29. The Commission recognizes that progress on the achievement of all Millennium Development Goals for women and girls has been held back owing to the persistence of historical and structural unequal power relations between women and men, poverty and inequalities and disadvantages in access to resources and opportunities that limit women's and girls' capabilities, and growing gaps in equality of opportunity, discriminatory laws, policies, social norms, attitudes, harmful customary and contemporary practices and gender stereotypes.

30. The Commission strongly condemns all forms of violence against women and girls. It expresses deep concern that discrimination and violence against women and girls continue to occur in all parts of the world and that all forms of violence against women and girls are impediments to the development of their full potential as equal partners with men and boys in all aspects of life, as well as obstacles to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

31. The Commission welcomes international momentum to address the issue of child, early and forced marriage. The Commission recognizes that child, early and forced marriage is a harmful practice, and notes that its continued prevalence, among other factors, has slowed the achievement of several of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.

32. The Commission emphasizes that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including the eradication of poverty and hunger, and that the implementation of special measures, as appropriate, aimed at empowering women can help accomplish this. It recognizes that inequality is a concern for all countries and that it represents an urgent challenge with multiple implications for the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights of women and girls. It also emphasizes that women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic and productive resources, quality education and support services, and women's minimal participation in the decision-making process. The Commission further recognizes that women's poverty and lack of empowerment as well as their exclusion from social and economic policies can place them at increased risk of violence and that violence against women impedes social and economic development, as well as the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

33. The Commission is also concerned that countries affected by natural disasters are less likely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and further notes that women and girls are disproportionately affected by natural disasters. It further recognizes that women play a vital role in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, including rehabilitation and reconstruction, and the need to enhance women's access, capacities and opportunities to effectively and equally participate in the prevention and preparedness efforts and response to disasters.

34. The Commission is deeply concerned that climate change poses a challenge to the achievement of sustainable development and that women and girls are disproportionately affected by the impacts of desertification, deforestation and natural disasters, persistent drought, extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, and is also deeply concerned that the adverse impacts of climate change on women and girls, especially those living in poverty, can be exacerbated by gender inequality and discrimination, and expresses profound alarm that greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise globally, remains deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and in this regard emphasizes that adaptation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent global priority.

35. The Commission expresses deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls, of the world financial and economic crisis, recognizing evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, and cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, inter alia, for women and girls, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among youth, indebtedness in some countries and widespread fiscal strains that pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stresses the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed to date, and in respect of maintaining adequate levels of funding for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

36. The Commission acknowledges that the global burden and threat of non-communicable diseases constitutes one of the major challenges for sustainable development in the twenty-first century, which may have a direct impact on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It further notes that developing countries bear a disproportionate burden and that non-communicable diseases can affect women and men differently.

37. The Commission further recognizes that progress on the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls has been limited owing to the lack of systematic gender mainstreaming and integration of gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Goals. The Commission also recognizes that effective gender-responsive monitoring of the Goals has been limited owing to a lack of investment in and the consistent collection and use of reliable, integrated gender indicators, statistics and data, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, location and other relevant factors, and that goals, targets and indicators, including gender-sensitive indicators, are valuable in measuring and accelerating progress and are enhanced by voluntarily sharing information, knowledge and experience. The Commission acknowledges in this regard the importance of civil registration systems and vital statistics.

38. The Commission also recognizes that insufficient priority given to and significant underinvestment in gender equality and the empowerment of women in the realization of the human rights of women and girls continue to limit progress on the Millennium Development Goals for girls and women of all ages, their families and communities, and for the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It stresses that the available resources, through domestic resource mobilization and official development assistance, and their allocation remain a concern and are often inadequate to the task.

39. The Commission acknowledges the strategic and coordinating role of national machineries for the advancement of women, which should be placed at the highest possible level in government, for the achievement of gender equality and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls, and the need to endow these machineries with the necessary human and sufficient financial resources to enable them to function effectively. The Commission also acknowledges the contribution of national human rights institutions where they exist.

40. The Commission acknowledges the major contributions made by civil society, including women's and community-based organizations and feminist groups, in placing the interests, needs and visions of women on national, regional and international agendas.

41. The Commission recognizes that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and stresses that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

42. The Commission urges Governments, at all levels, and as appropriate, with the relevant entities of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates and bearing in mind national priorities, and invites national human rights institutions where they exist, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private

sector, employer organizations, trade unions, media and other relevant actors, as applicable, to take the following actions:

Realizing women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights

(a) Consider ratifying or acceding to, as a particular matter of priority, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and their respective Optional Protocols, limit the extent of any reservations, formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Conventions, review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the relevant treaty, and implement them fully by, inter alia, putting in place effective national legislation and policies;

(b) Accelerate full and effective implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and its key actions for their further implementation and the outcomes of their review conferences to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls;

(c) Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls through the development, where needed, adoption and accelerated and effective implementation and monitoring of laws and comprehensive policy measures; the removal, where they exist, of discriminatory provisions in legal frameworks, including punitive provisions; and setting up legal, policy, administrative and other comprehensive measures, including temporary special measures as appropriate, to ensure women's and girls' equal and effective access to justice and accountability for violations of human rights of women and girls;

(d) Implement concrete and long-term measures to transform discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, including those that limit women's roles to being mothers and caregivers, and eliminate harmful practices including, inter alia, female genital mutilation and honour crimes, in order to achieve gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and the full realization of the human rights of women and girls;

(e) Fully engage men and boys, including community leaders, as strategic partners and allies in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls both in the family and in society, design and implement national policies that aim to transform those social norms that condone violence against women and girls, and work to counteract attitudes by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys, including by understanding and addressing the root causes of gender inequality such as unequal power relations, social norms, practices and stereotypes that perpetuate discrimination against women and girls, and engage them in efforts to promote and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(f) Acknowledge publicly the important and legitimate role of women human rights defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights,

democracy, the rule of law and development and take appropriate, robust and practical steps to protect them;

(g) Adopt and implement specific and targeted measures recognizing that some women experience increased vulnerability and marginalization owing to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and inequalities;

(h) Take all appropriate measures to adopt and implement disability-inclusive national development strategies and legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect and promote the rights of women and girls with disabilities, as persons with disabilities are more vulnerable to discrimination and violence and are still largely invisible in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals;

(i) Encourage the participation of indigenous women and girls in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, noting the contribution of that conference towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, bearing in mind that indigenous women and girls face particular challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

(j) Enact and implement legislation to protect, support and empower child-headed households, in particular those headed by girls, and include provisions to ensure their economic well-being and access to health-care services, nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, shelter, education and inheritance, and ensure that these families are protected, supported and assisted to stay together;

(k) Address the multiple and intersecting factors contributing to the disproportionate impact of poverty on women and girls over their life cycle, as well as intra-household gender inequalities in the allocation of resources, opportunities and power, by realizing women's and girls' civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, and ensure women's and girls' inheritance and property rights, equal access to quality education, equal access to justice, social protection and an adequate standard of living, including food security and nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation, energy and fuel resources and housing, as well as women's and adolescent girls' access to health, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, and women's equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, women's full participation and integration in the formal economy, equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, and equal sharing of unpaid work;

(l) Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spaces through multisectoral and coordinated approaches to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and exercise due diligence, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and end impunity, and provide protection as well as universal access to comprehensive social, health and legal services for all victims and survivors, to ensure their full recovery and reintegration into society and, bearing in mind the importance for all women and girls to live free from violence, to address the structural and underlying causes of violence against women and girls through enhanced prevention measures, research and strengthened coordination and monitoring and evaluation;

(m) Eliminate all harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, by reviewing, adopting, enacting and enforcing laws and regulations that prohibit such practices, creating awareness around their harmful health consequences and generating social support for the enforcement of these laws;

(n) Strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation for the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime including by implementing the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, including the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking; to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour; to review and adopt laws, regulations and penalties necessary to deal with this issue and publicize them to emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime; and encourage media providers, including Internet service providers, to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of media, particularly the Internet, with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children;

(o) Ensure the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems that make universally accessible and available quality comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services, commodities, information and education, including, inter alia, safe and effective methods of modern contraception, emergency contraception, prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy, maternal health care such as skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care, which will reduce obstetric fistula and other complications of pregnancy and delivery, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law, and prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and reproductive cancers, recognizing that human rights include the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence;

(p) Ensure universal access to comprehensive prevention, affordable treatment, care and support services for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, free of stigma and discrimination, with a gender perspective, and provide comprehensive information, voluntary counselling and testing to young women and adolescent girls living and affected with HIV and AIDS;

(q) Develop, implement and support national prevention, care and treatment strategies to effectively address obstetric fistula using a multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated approach in order to bring about lasting solutions;

(r) Encourage partnerships for global health to support Member States in carrying out their responsibilities, including in moving towards universal health coverage, which implies that all people, including women and girls, have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative basic health services, needed and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines and vaccines, especially through the promotion of primary health care, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a specific emphasis on the poor vulnerable, and marginalized segments of the population, and calls upon Member States to strengthen and improve the quality of health systems in this regard;

(s) Develop comprehensive strategies to target gender inequality in health care and put into practice policies to ensure equal access for women, adolescents and youth to affordable and adequate health-care services, including primary health care and basic nutrition;

(t) Pursue and promote gender-based approaches for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases founded on data disaggregated by sex and age in an effort to address the critical differences in the risks of morbidity and mortality from non-communicable diseases for women and men;

(u) Promote and protect women's and girls' right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination throughout their life cycle at all levels and promote equal and inclusive access to quality early childhood, primary, secondary and post-secondary education, non-formal education, catch-up and adult literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, skills development and vocational training and human rights education and training, with specific attention to: eliminating gender disparities at all levels of education by increasing the retention, transition and completion rates of women and girls; improving the quality of education and learning outcomes; eliminating gender stereotypes in the curriculum; mainstreaming a gender perspective into education and training programmes, including science and technology; eradicating female illiteracy and supporting school-to-work transition through skills development to enable their active participation in economic, social and cultural development, governance and decision-making;

(v) Adopt targeted measures to ensure girls' safety and an environment free from sexual harassment in school and in the commute to and from school, including by improving transportation, strengthening infrastructure by providing separate and adequate sanitation facilities, improved lighting, playgrounds and other safe environments; conducting violence prevention activities in schools and communities; and establishing and enforcing penalties for all forms of violence and harassment against girls;

(w) Promote the right to education by making primary education compulsory and available free to all children and through the progressive introduction of subsidized education, bearing in mind the need for special measures to ensure equal access, including affirmative action to contribute to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion and ensuring school attendance, in particular for girls and children from low-income families and children who become heads of households;

(x) Develop and implement educational programmes and teaching materials, including comprehensive evidence-based education for human sexuality, based on full and accurate information, for all adolescents and youth, in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities, with the appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the involvement of children, adolescents, youth and communities and in coordination with women's, youth and specialized non-governmental organizations, in order to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, to eliminate prejudices and to promote and build informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills for the development of respectful relationships and based on gender equality and human rights, as well as teacher education and training programmes for both formal and non-formal education;

(y) With the support of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, develop policies and programmes, giving priority to formal, informal and non-formal education, that support girls and enable them to acquire knowledge, develop self-esteem and take responsibility for their own lives, and place special focus on programmes to educate women and men, especially parents, about the importance of girls' physical and mental health and well-being, including the elimination of discrimination and violence against girls;

(z) Ensure women's right to work and rights at work through gender-responsive policies and programmes that promote women's economic empowerment, including decent work for all, promote equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, invest in and empower women in productive sectors of the economy, support women's technical, managerial and entrepreneurial capacities, promote collective bargaining, address the gendered division of labour, prohibit and redress sexual harassment, prevent discrimination against women in the workplace, support the reconciliation of paid work with family/care responsibilities for both women and men, and promote women's full and equal participation in the formal economy, in particular in economic decision-making, and empower women in the informal economy, with particular attention to women domestic workers, who are entitled to the same basic rights as other workers, including protection from violence and abuse, fair terms of employment, and a safe and healthy working environment;

(aa) Guarantee women's and girls' inheritance rights and their full and equal access to and control over assets and natural and other productive resources, including full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit capital, finance, financial assets, science and technology, vocational training, information and communications technologies and markets, and to ensure equal access to justice and legal assistance;

(bb) Encourage States and relevant civil society groups to empower women and girls by supporting programmes that facilitate participation through public and private investment in agriculture aiming to achieve food security and nutrition;

(cc) Recognize, resource and support programmes that advance gender equality and women's rights in all areas of economic activities, including fisheries and aquaculture, to address food security and nutrition, and meaningfully facilitate women's contributions to small-scale and artisan fisheries and aquaculture, commercial fisheries, and the use and care of oceans and seas;

(dd) Ensure non-discriminatory access for women of all ages to gender-responsive, universally accessible, available, affordable, sustainable and high-quality services and infrastructure, including health care, safe drinking water and sanitation, transport, energy, housing, agricultural technology, financial and legal services, and information and communications technologies;

(ee) Invest in closing the gender gap in information and communications technologies by making them affordable and accessible, including as regards access to broadband as a tool for the empowerment of women and girls and the exercise of their full range of human rights, access to information, access to markets, networking and increased opportunities;

(ff) Promote universal social protection across the life cycle, including for older women, that gives women and girls protection against risks and vulnerabilities and promotes their social inclusion and full enjoyment of all human rights;

(gg) Recognize that caregiving is a critical societal function and therefore emphasize the need to value, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work by prioritizing social protection policies, including accessible and affordable social services, including care services for children, persons with disabilities, older persons and persons living with HIV and AIDS, and all others in need of care; the development of infrastructure, including access to environmentally sound time- and energy-saving technologies; employment policies, including family-friendly policies with maternity and paternity leave and benefits; and the promotion of the equal sharing of responsibilities and chores between men and women in caregiving and domestic work to reduce the domestic work burden of women and girls and to change the attitudes that reinforce the division of labour based on gender;

(hh) Recognize the family as a contributor to sustainable development, including in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals for women and girls, that gender equality and women's empowerment improve the well-being of the family, and in this regard stress the need for elaborating and implementing family policies aimed at achieving gender equality and women's empowerment and at enhancing the full participation of women in society;

(ii) Promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, and address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

Strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality and the empowerment of women

(jj) Work towards ensuring that global trade, financial and investment agreements are conducive to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls, and complement national development efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls, including through reaffirming the critical role of an open, equitable, rules-based, predictable, non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, and strengthen the effectiveness of the support of the global economic system for development by encouraging the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into development policies at all levels in all sectors;

(kk) Underline commitments to strengthen national efforts, including with the support of international cooperation, aimed at addressing the rights and needs of women and girls affected by natural disasters, armed conflicts, other complex humanitarian emergencies, trafficking in persons and terrorism, within the context of actions geared to the realization of the internationally agreed goals and commitments related to gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the Millennium Development Goals, recognizing the challenges they face, and also underline the need to take concerted actions, in conformity with international law, to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the rights of women and girls living under foreign occupation, so as to ensure the achievement of the above-mentioned goals and commitments, recognizing the challenges they face;

(ll) Implement macroeconomic policies that, together with labour and social policies, promote full and productive employment and decent work for all and gender equality and the empowerment of women, to enhance economic efficiency and optimize the contribution of women to economic growth and poverty reduction, and increase awareness among decision makers, the private sector and employers of the necessity of women's economic empowerment and their important contribution;

(mm) Strengthen the role of women in the formal and informal sectors, including in cross-border trade and agriculture, put in place measures needed to improve women's access to markets and productive resources, and make markets safe for women, including those living in rural areas, and thereby ensure that businesses and farms owned by women and men have equal opportunities in markets;

(nn) Identify and develop strategies to expand trade opportunities for women producers and facilitate the active participation of women in national, regional and global trade;

(oo) Take measures to ensure that, in global and national policy responses to financial and economic crises and to excessive, volatile food and energy prices, any negative impacts on gender equality and the empowerment of women are minimized, including on employment and funding for essential services and social protection systems, and that particular support is given to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable persons, and that gender equality and

the empowerment of women continue to be promoted, including the protection of the human rights of women and girls;

(pp) Refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

(qq) Prioritize and mainstream gender equality perspectives in all social, economic and environmental policies and programmes to implement the Millennium Development Goals, including national development policies and strategies to eradicate poverty, and gender-responsive budgeting and public expenditure allocation processes, establish and strengthen institutional mechanisms for gender mainstreaming at the local, national and regional levels, and promote and ensure the implementation of national legal frameworks and the coordination between branches of government to ensure gender equality;

(rr) Promote equal opportunities and the full and equal participation of women and men as agents and beneficiaries of people-centred sustainable development, and reaffirm that the eradication of poverty based on sustained economic growth, social development, environmental protection and social justice requires the involvement of women in economic and social development;

(ss) Adopt measures to implement and monitor the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and women and girls affected by violent extremism, and ensure women's effective participation at all levels and at all stages and in peace processes and mediation efforts, conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and recovery, as laid out in relevant Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, and in this regard support the involvement of women's organizations and civil society organizations. End impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of the most serious crimes against women and girls under national and international law, and ensure that the alleged perpetrators of those crimes are held accountable under national justice or, where applicable, international justice;

(tt) Promote the integration of a gender perspective in environmental and climate change policies and strengthen mechanisms and provide adequate resources to ensure women's full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, in particular on strategies and policies related to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events and slow onset impacts, including drought, ocean acidification, sea-level rise and loss of biodiversity on the lives of women and girls, and ensure a comprehensive approach to address the hardships faced by women and girls by integrating their specific needs into humanitarian responses to natural disasters and into the planning, delivery and monitoring of disaster risk reduction policies to address natural disasters and climate change, and ensuring sustainable natural resources management;

(uu) Strengthen international cooperation in technology and innovation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including through public-private partnerships;

(vv) Strengthen and support the contributions of rural women to the agricultural sector and to enhancing agricultural and rural development, including small-scale farming, and ensure that women have equal access to agricultural technologies, through investments and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, and innovation in small-scale agricultural production and distribution, and address the existing gaps in and barriers to trading their agricultural products in local, regional and international markets;

(ww) Strengthen international cooperation, including the role of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, and invites all Member States to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation focusing on shared development priorities, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders in government, civil society and the private sector, while noting that national ownership and leadership in this regard are indispensable for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(xx) Recognize the important role the media can play in the elimination of gender stereotypes and, to the extent consistent with freedom of expression, increase the participation and access of women to all forms of media, and encourage the media to increase public awareness of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

Maximizing investments in gender equality and the empowerment of women

(yy) Increase and ensure the effectiveness of financial resources across all sectors to achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and the realization and enjoyment of women's and girls' human rights through mobilization of financial resources from all sources, including domestic resource mobilization and allocation and increased priority to gender equality in official development assistance, and the creation of voluntary innovative financing mechanisms, as appropriate;

(zz) Urge developed countries that have not yet done so, in accordance with their commitments, to make concrete efforts towards meeting the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to least developed countries, and encourage developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and targets and help them, inter alia, to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(aaa) Recognize that the long-term sustainability of debt depends on, inter alia, economic growth, the mobilization of domestic and international resources, export prospects of debtor countries, sustainable debt management, sound macroeconomic policies that also support job creation, transparent and effective regulatory frameworks and success in overcoming structural development problems, and hence on the creation of an enabling international environment that is conducive to sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(bbb) Support and institutionalize a gender-sensitive approach to public financial management, including gender-responsive budgeting across all sectors of public expenditure, to address gaps in resourcing for gender equality and women's empowerment, and ensure all national and sectoral plans and policies for gender equality and the empowerment of women are fully costed and adequately resourced to ensure their effective implementation;

(ccc) Monitor and evaluate the impact of all economic decision-making on gender equality, including public sector expenditures, austerity measures, where they apply, public-private partnerships and investments, and official development assistance, and take corrective action to prevent discriminatory impacts and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women, including by ensuring the promotion of women's full and equal participation in economic decision-making structures;

(ddd) Increase resources and support for grass-roots, local, national, regional and global women's and civil society organizations to advance and promote gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls;

Strengthening the evidence base for gender equality and the empowerment of women

(eee) Improve systematic and coordinated collection, analysis, dissemination and use of gender statistics and data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other relevant variables at the national level, through appropriate financial and technical support and capacity-building, while recognizing the need for international cooperation in this regard;

(fff) Collect regularly and disseminate statistics on the minimum set of gender indicators and the core set of violence against women indicators adopted by the Statistical Commission in 2013;

(ggg) Continue to develop and enhance standards and methodologies, for use at national and international levels, to improve data, inter alia, on women's poverty, income distribution within households, unpaid care work, women's access to, control and ownership of assets and productive resources, and women's participation at all levels of decision-making, including to monitor progress on the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls;

(hhh) Develop and strengthen national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess policies and programmes to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls and promote the sharing of best practices;

Ensuring women's participation and leadership at all levels and strengthening accountability

(iii) Take measures to ensure women's full, equal and effective participation in all fields and leadership at all levels of decision-making in the public and private sectors through policies and actions such as temporary special measures, as appropriate, and by setting and working to achieve concrete goals, targets and benchmarks;

(jjj) Strengthen the participation and contributions of women in decision-making processes on national, regional and global trade;

(kkk) Ensure the effective participation of women's and youth and other relevant civil society organizations in the design, continued implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and take into account their views in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

(lll) Develop and implement effective measures to account for the achievement of gender equality, the empowerment of women and the realization of the human rights of women and girls;

(mmm) Strengthen institutional arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls, ensure transparency in this regard by making available relevant information and support women's full and effective participation and leadership in monitoring.

43. The Commission urges States to build on the lessons from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals as the new post-2015 development agenda is being shaped. It urges States to tackle critical remaining challenges through a transformative and comprehensive approach and calls for gender equality, the empowerment of women and human rights of women and girls to be reflected as a stand-alone goal and to be integrated through targets and indicators into all goals of any new development framework.

44. The Commission also urges all States and all other stakeholders to undertake comprehensive national- and regional-level reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly so that the outcomes of these reviews can effectively feed into its fifty-ninth session, to be held in 2015. The Commission especially encourages all stakeholders to analyse current challenges and identify opportunities for accelerating actions to achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and the realization of human rights of women and girls and to undertake appropriate commemorative activities for the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

B. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Draft resolution I
Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

Recalling also its resolution 2013/17 of 24 July 2013 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[5] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[6] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[6] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7] and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

Expressing grave concern also about the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including the continuation of home demolitions, evictions of Palestinians, the revocation of residency rights, arbitrary detention and imprisonment and escalating settler violence against Palestinian civilians and their property, as well as high rates of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, inadequate water supply and unsafe drinking water, incidents of domestic violence, and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and the decline in their psychological well-being, and expressing grave concern about the dire humanitarian crisis and insecurity and instability

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[1] E/CN.6/2014/6.

[2] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[5] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[6] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in particular in the Gaza Strip,

Deploring the dire economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including the forced displacement of civilians and confiscation of land, particularly in connection with the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, which continue to constitute a major obstacle to peace on the basis of the two-State solution, and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including the permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which have detrimentally affected their right to health care, including access for pregnant women to health services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

Gravely concerned, in particular, about the critical socioeconomic and humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from Israeli military operations, including those in November 2012, and the continuing imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, as well as the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, which has detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families, and recognizing the essential efforts and support being provided by the United Nations agencies and other humanitarian aid organizations on the ground,

Reiterating the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

2. *Calls upon* the international community, in this regard, to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programmes, commends the

implementation of the August 2009 plan of the Palestinian Authority for constructing the institutions of an independent Palestinian State and the significant achievements made, as confirmed by international institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, and calls for continued support of these efforts;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[8] the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[9] and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the International Covenants on Human Rights,[6] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

5. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

6. *Stresses* the urgent need for sustained and active international involvement, including by the Quartet, to assist the parties in advancing and accelerating peace process negotiations for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement that ends the occupation which began in 1967 and results in the independence of a democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its neighbours, on the basis of United Nations resolutions, the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,[10] and the Arab Peace Initiative adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at its fourteenth session;[11]

7. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action,[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[4]

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in his report,[1] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session a report, including information provided by the Economic

[8] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.
[10] S/2003/529, annex.
[11] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

C. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

3. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-eighth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-eighth session[12] and approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission set out below:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18);

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

* For the discussion, see chaps. V and VI.

[12] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 7* (E/2014/27).

Documentation

Reports of the Secretary-General:

– Progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme

– Situation of, and assistance to, Palestinian women

Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcome of the relevant sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women and responses thereto

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

Documentation

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women

6. Provisional agenda for the sixtieth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-ninth session.

D. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following resolutions and decision adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 58/1
Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Guided by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 77-80.

Guided also by the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[13] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,[14] as well as relevant international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[5] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[6] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[6] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[15] the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[16] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights,[17]

Taking duly into account the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/177 of 20 December 2006,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts,[18] as well as all relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council concerning hostage-taking and General Assembly resolution 61/172 of 19 December 2006,

Recognizing that women and children bear particular vulnerabilities when taken hostage, including sexual violence and reproductive health concerns,

Recognizing also that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community,

Recalling the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of the civilian population as such,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration[19] and Platform for Action,[3] as well as the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4] and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[20] including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children, and welcoming the ten-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and General Assembly decision 64/530 on the commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
[14] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.
[15] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[16] Ibid., vol. 1465, No. 24841.
[17] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.
[18] Resolutions 39/2, 40/1, 41/1, 42/2, 43/1, 44/1, 45/1, 46/1, 48/1, 50/1, 52/1, 54/3 and 56/1.
[19] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[20] General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106 (2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security, as well as its resolutions 1314 (2000) of 11 August 2000, 1379 (2001) of 20 November 2001, 1460 (2003) of 30 January 2003, 1539 (2004) of 22 April 2004, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068 (2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143 (2014) of 7 March 2014 on children and armed conflict, and 2133 (2014) of 27 January 2014 on kidnapping for ransom and hostage-taking by terrorists,

Expressing grave concern at the continuation of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they cause,

Noting that women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, including in armed conflicts, whether international or non-international, are victims of serious violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, that continue to have a negative impact on efforts to put an end to those conflicts and cause suffering to the families of those women and children, and stressing, in this regard, the need to address the issue from a humanitarian perspective, among others,

Emphasizing that all forms of violence in areas of armed conflict committed against the civilian population as such, including taking women and children hostage, seriously contravene international humanitarian law, in particular as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,

Being cognizant that States that are parties to an armed conflict have a responsibility not to take hostage and subsequently imprison women and children in armed conflict and to ensure accountability as regards implementation of relevant mechanisms, policies and laws in order to protect them, bearing in mind that all parties to the conflict must refrain from hostage-taking,

Concerned that, despite the efforts of the international community, acts of hostage-taking in different forms and manifestations, inter alia, those committed by terrorists and armed groups, continue to take place and have even increased in many regions of the world,

Noting with concern the serious threats posed by transnational organized crime in some regions, and its increasing links, in some cases, with terrorism, and strongly condemning the incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed for any purpose, including raising funds or gaining political concessions,

Recognizing that hostage-taking calls for resolute, firm and concerted efforts on the part of the international community, in conformity with international humanitarian law and in accordance with international human rights standards, in order to bring such abhorrent practices to an end,

Expressing its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children", including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children,

1. *Reaffirms* that hostage-taking, wherever and by whomever committed, is an illegal act aimed at the destruction of human rights and is, under any circumstances, unjustifiable;

2. *Condemns* all violent acts committed against the civilian population as such, in violation of international humanitarian law in situations of armed conflict, and calls for an effective response to such acts, in particular the immediate release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field;

3. *Also condemns* the consequences of hostage-taking, in particular torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, murder, rape, slavery and trafficking in women and children, and deplores their consequences;

4. *Urges* States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all necessary measures, in a timely manner, to determine the identity, fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, and, to the greatest possible extent, to provide their family members, through appropriate channels, with all relevant information they have on their fate and whereabouts;

5. *Invites*, in this regard, States to adopt a comprehensive approach, including all appropriate legal and practical measures and coordination mechanisms;

6. *Recognizes* the need for the collection, protection and management of information on women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, according to international and national legal norms and standards, and urges States to cooperate with each other and with other appropriate actors working in this area, inter alia, by providing all relevant and appropriate information;

7. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law and to take all necessary measures for the protection of the civilian population as such, including measures to prevent and combat acts of hostage-taking;

8. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe, unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for those women and children, in accordance with international humanitarian law;

9. *Also urges* all parties to an armed conflict to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross in establishing the fate and

whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned;

10. *Stresses* both the need for increased accountability and the responsibility of all States to prosecute or bring to justice in accordance with international law those responsible for war crimes, including hostage-taking and sexual violence;

11. *Also stresses* the need for addressing the issue of release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, also as a part of peace processes, with reference to all justice and rule of law mechanisms, on the basis of transparency, accountability and public involvement and participation;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of objective, responsible and impartial information, including improved analysis and dissemination of sex- and age-disaggregated data, on hostages, verifiable by relevant international organizations, in facilitating their release, and calls for assistance to those organizations in this regard;

13. *Highlights* the importance of the rehabilitation of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, recognizing their particular vulnerability to violence, including sexual violence, in these situations, and urges the concerned States to take all practically possible measures to this end;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, in the context of the present resolution, the continued wide dissemination of information, in particular relating to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000);

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and undertake efforts to facilitate the immediate release of civilian women and children who have been taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned;

16. *Invites* the special rapporteurs, within their respective mandates, as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, to continue to address the issue of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts and its consequences;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including relevant practical recommendations, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations;

18. *Decides* to consider the question at its sixtieth session.

Resolution 58/2
Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Bearing in mind that natural disasters affect human lives and living conditions thereafter, and have a more direct and adverse impact on women and girls, as well as vulnerable persons within groups such as children, older persons and persons with disabilities, and that natural disasters have different impacts on men and women, owing to social exclusion, gender inequality, gender stereotypes, different family responsibilities, discrimination against women and poverty, as well as the lack of equal access to adequate services, information, economic opportunities, entitlements, justice and safety,

Reaffirming the commitments regarding women and girls affected by natural disasters in the Beijing Platform for Action[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[4] and reaffirming also that the outcomes stressed the need to incorporate a gender perspective into disaster risk reduction, response and recovery strategies,

Noting that, during a natural disaster, pregnant or lactating women and adolescent girls, who constitute an average of 18 to 20 per cent of the female population, are more vulnerable to disasters because of their limited physical mobility and their increased needs for food and water and for access to reproductive health care and safe birthing facilities,

Recognizing that natural disasters can increase the likelihood of rape and sexual exploitation, domestic violence, unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and complications regarding sexual and reproductive health, including for pregnant women, who face heightened risks from interrupted access to sexual and reproductive health care,

Noting that natural disasters can lead to widespread and prolonged displacement, which increases the vulnerability, in particular of women and girls, to gender-based violence and to negative coping strategies, creates barriers to their ability to access education, employment and health-care and other crucial services, and separates them from support networks,

Recalling its resolution 56/2 of 9 March 2012,[21] and mindful of the continuing need to further enhance gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Recalling also the agreed conclusions of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women of 15 March 2002,[22] Commission on the Status of Women resolution 49/5 of 11 March 2005,[23] as well as Commission resolution 55/1 of 4 March 2011 entitled "Mainstreaming gender equality and promoting empowerment of women in climate change policies and

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[21] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 7* (E/2012/27-E/CN.6/2012/16), chap. I, sect. D.

[22] Ibid., *2002, Supplement No. 7* (E/2002/27-E/CN.6/2002/13), chap. I, sect. A.

[23] Ibid., *2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27-E/CN.6/2005/11 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. D.

strategies",[24] the Hyogo Declaration[25] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters[26] adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan from 18 to 22 January 2005, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[27] as well as all the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 68/102 and 68/103 of 13 December 2013 and 68/211 of 20 December 2013, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/6 of 17 July 2013,

Noting various processes leading up to 2015 and 2016, especially the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai City, Japan, in March 2015, and the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2016,

Welcoming the response and longer-term recovery efforts of the affected countries as well as the continued support and assistance given by the international community in the relief and recovery efforts for natural disasters in all parts of the world, including the deadly typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) that struck the Philippines on 8 November 2013 and the devastating earthquake that struck eastern Japan on 11 March 2011, and other recent natural disasters, including those addressed in recent humanitarian appeals, while stressing the importance of further efforts in these responses, including in gender-responsive disaster management,

Recognizing that incorporating a gender perspective into disaster response and longer-term recovery planning and implementation will cut recovery time, lead to greater efficiency and equity in the short- and longer-term recovery efforts and strengthen the resilience of entire communities,

Recognizing also that protection from gender-based violence in the context of natural disasters, including through early programme prevention and response, can reduce morbidity and mortality,

Stressing the importance of ensuring non-discriminatory participation and inclusion of women and girls, as well as vulnerable persons within groups such as children, older persons and persons with disabilities, in every phase of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, through a people-centred and holistic approach that fully respects human rights, in order to build an inclusive society, supported by a social bond among people through community-based approaches, which promotes gender equality, the empowerment of women, social and economic inclusion and development, strengthens the resilience of communities and reduces social and economic vulnerabilities to disasters,

1. *Recognizes* that women play a vital role in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, including rehabilitation and reconstruction, and the need to enhance women's access, capacities and opportunities to effectively participate in prevention and preparedness efforts and in response to disasters;

[24] Ibid., *2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27-E/CN.6/2011/12), chap. I, sect. D.
[25] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.
[26] Ibid., resolution 2.
[27] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

2. *Also recognizes* that natural disasters and the ability to recover from them can affect men and women differently, and that a gender-responsive approach, including gender-sensitive needs assessments, during post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, has the potential to address underlying social issues that create vulnerability to disasters and prolong the time needed for economic and social reintegration and productivity;

3. *Further recognizes* that, in addition to focusing on physical infrastructure during the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, social and economic transformation in the areas of housing, income generation and agriculture and the informal sector, and health care, including psychosocial counselling, should also be taken into consideration in order to adequately address gender priorities;

4. *Urges* Governments and, where appropriate, United Nations entities, civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and other stakeholders:

(a) To review national policies, strategies and plans and take action to integrate a gender perspective in policies, planning and funding for disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, considering the different impacts that natural disasters have on women and men;

(b) To facilitate and increase women's access to information and education, including in the area of science and technology, including information and communications technology, and economics, thus enhancing their knowledge, skills and opportunities for participation and leadership in environmental decisions, including during natural disasters;

(c) To ensure equal opportunities for the leadership and participation of women and, as appropriate, girls, in decision-making, including with regard to the allocation of resources at all levels regarding disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

(d) To strengthen the capacities, awareness and cooperation of relevant authorities and institutions at all levels to apply a gender-responsive approach to disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

(e) To ensure the full enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights in every phase of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

(f) To make the utmost efforts to secure equal access to disaster relief assistance for women, girls, boys and men, and provide disaster response and support for recovery and development that is fully responsive to the needs and respects the views and enjoyment of all human rights of women and girls, with special attention paid to the needs of pregnant and lactating women, adolescent girls, families with infants or older persons, single-headed households and persons with disabilities and widows, such as in the context of the provision of food and supplies, water and sanitation, the set-up and management of shelter, safety and security, and the provision of physical, psychological and emergency health care, including for sexual and reproductive health, and counselling services for survivors of gender-based violence, while encouraging the involvement of women professionals and gender balance among field workers;

(g) To require implementing partners to utilize a gender marker system and to report on associated gender commitments throughout the humanitarian programme cycle;

(h) To ensure that, in every phase of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, special attention is given to the prevention of various forms of gender-based exploitation and abuse, including the risk of trafficking and the particular vulnerability of girls, unaccompanied children and orphans, and women and children with disabilities;

(i) To ensure also, in every phase of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, the provision of protection, care and support to the victims of gender-based violence and, as appropriate, the provision of legal, medical, psychosocial and other relevant services for survivors of gender-based violence to aid, inter alia, in the investigation and prosecution of cases of sexual and gender-based violence, taking into account survivors' needs in order to avoid their revictimization;

(j) To design, implement and evaluate gender-responsive economic relief and longer-term recovery projects, including vocational and technical skills training measures, in order to help ensure equal economic opportunities for men and women, paying attention to eliminating obstacles to women's rapid integration or reintegration into the formal employment sector, owing to their role in the social and economic process, and taking into account the rural and urban migration that natural disasters may provoke;

(k) To promote and involve women in designing income-generating activities and employment opportunities for women affected by natural disasters, particularly rural women, including by supporting community-based and home-based businesses through such instruments as local procurement of food and services, the establishment of necessary social services, and access to market, credit, cash transfers, social safety nets and other financial services, involving women in their design and taking into account the additional burden on women's time in the post-disaster phase for tasks such as securing supplies of food, water and fuel and caring for children whose schools have closed;

(l) To ensure equal access for women and men to, and their equal participation in, natural hazard early warning systems, promote disaster risk reduction planning at the national, subnational and community levels, taking into account the specific needs, views and all human rights of women, girls, boys and men, and raise public awareness and provide training at all levels on gender-responsive approaches to disaster risk reduction, including in the areas of science and technology;

(m) To ensure equal access to and use of information, training and formal and informal education on disaster risk reduction for women and girls, in order to enhance their voices and participation in processes relating to disaster risk reduction;

(n) To systematically collect, analyse and utilize demographic and socioeconomic data and information disaggregated by sex, age and disability, among other factors, for the purpose of contextual social and gender analysis and for identifying and addressing the differing coping strategies, needs, capacities, knowledge and priorities and vulnerabilities of women, girls, boys

and men, continue to develop gender indicators and analyse gender differences, including through gender-responsive needs assessment, participatory planning processes and methodologies, and integrate this information into disaster risk reduction and management policies and programmes in order to ensure programme and policy effectiveness and reduce the loss of life and livelihoods;

(o) To document and assess disaster risk reduction activities and disaster and recovery responses from a gender perspective, and widely disseminate, nationally, regionally and internationally, information on good practices, lessons learned and tools, including technologies in support of disaster risk reduction, in order to promote and ensure their integration into disaster risk reduction planning;

(p) To recognize and further promote the role of civil society, including community-based organizations, women's and adolescent girls' organizations and volunteers, in disaster risk reduction planning and management and in promoting the building of an inclusive, disaster-resilient society that ensures women's full participation;

(q) To recognize also the important role played by women professionals and volunteers, inter alia, in meeting the needs of women and girls, and further encourage their participation in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

(r) To forge constructive partnerships among all stakeholders, including Governments, United Nations entities and other relevant actors, such as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in order to strengthen a gender perspective in all aspects of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

5. *Commends* those donors who use a gender marker system in their funding decisions, and encourages Governments and, where appropriate, United Nations entities, civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and other stakeholders, to use such a system;

6. *Encourages* Governments, local authorities, the United Nations system and regional organizations, and invites donors and other assisting countries, to address the vulnerabilities and capacities of women and girls through gender-responsive programming and the allocation of resources in their disaster risk reduction, response and recovery efforts in coordination with the Governments of affected countries;

7. *Requests* all relevant United Nations entities, according to their mandates, to ensure that a gender perspective continues to be mainstreamed into all aspects of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery and to report systematically on progress towards such mainstreaming under the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;

8. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming gender and disability perspectives in disaster risk management prior to disasters, in order to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce social vulnerabilities to disasters, and recognizes the need for the inclusive participation and

contribution of women, as well as vulnerable persons within groups such as children, older persons and persons with disabilities, to various processes, including the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and its preparatory process;

9. *Calls upon* Governments to promote the strategic goals for risk reduction and resilience-building in the framework for disaster risk reduction beyond 2015, including indicators for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

10. *Requests* the United Nations system, Member States and other stakeholders to continue to promote the inclusion of a gender perspective in their activities, international negotiation processes and consultations as they relate to natural disasters, especially in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

11. *Requests* Governments, United Nations entities, civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and other stakeholders, to share their gender perspective in the preparatory processes towards the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in 2016, on the basis of their experiences and lessons learned from past humanitarian action, thus mainstreaming the gender perspective in the themes of the summit.

Resolution 58/3
Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS*

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration[19] and Platform for Action,[3] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[4] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[28] and key actions for its further implementation, the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[29] the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,[30] the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,[31] the HIV and AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[32] and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV, as well as the commitments on HIV and AIDS made at the 2005 World Summit,[33] the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[34] the 2013 special event to follow up efforts

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

[28] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[29] General Assembly resolution S-26/2, annex.

[30] General Assembly resolution 60/262, annex.

[31] General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.

[32] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[33] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[34] See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals[35] and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,[36]

Welcoming the leadership and commitment shown in every aspect of the HIV and AIDS response by Governments, people living with HIV, political and community leaders, parliaments, regional and subregional organizations, communities, families, faith-based organizations, scientists, health professionals, donors, the philanthropic community, workforces, the business sector, civil society and the media, including the African Union Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa,

Reaffirming that prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to end the epidemic, and recognizing the need to ensure the respect, promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS,

Reaffirming also the need to eradicate poverty, which can contribute to the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV infection and aggravate the impact of the epidemic by depleting resources and incomes, thereby contributing to inadequate food and nutrition, which leads to poor treatment outcomes, and to impoverishment owing to loss of income and increased health expenditures, and endangers the survival of present and future generations,

Noting with concern that violence against women and girls, including harmful practices, is among the contributory factors to the spread of HIV, and noting with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations system to end violence against women and girls, including the campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women",

Recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are at increased risk of HIV infection,

Concerned that women and girls with disabilities face increased vulnerability to HIV as a result of, inter alia, legal, social and economic inequalities, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and violations of their rights,

Concerned also that the global HIV epidemic disproportionately affects women and girls and reinforces gender inequalities, that the majority of new HIV infections in young people aged 15 to 19 years occur among girls, and also concerned that women and girls bear the disproportionate burden of caring for and supporting people living with and affected by HIV, and that they become more vulnerable to poverty as a result of the epidemic,

Concerned further that women and girls are physiologically more vulnerable to HIV, especially at an earlier age, than men and boys, and that this is increased by violence against women, girls and adolescents, sexual

[35] See General Assembly resolution 68/13.
[36] See General Assembly resolution 66/288.

exploitation, including commercial sexual exploitation, premature and coerced sexual relations, harmful practices, such as child, early and force marriage, female genital mutilation, as well as an imbalance in the power dynamic between women and men, and unequal legal, economic and social status, including poverty,

Deeply concerned that there are women, including young women, living with HIV who would like to space or limit pregnancies but are currently not using an effective method of contraception owing to limited access to voluntary family planning services and a broad range of contraceptive methods,

Concerned that HIV infection rates are higher among young people, especially young and married women, who do not finish primary school than among those who do,

Concerned also that women and adolescent girls have unequal access to health resources, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, for the prevention of HIV infection and treatment of and care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS,

Noting with concern that regulations, policies and practices, including those that limit legitimate trade of generic medicines, may seriously limit access to affordable HIV treatment and other pharmaceutical products in low- and middle-income countries, and recognizing that improvements can be made, inter alia, through national legislation, regulatory policy and supply chain management, and noting that reductions in barriers to affordable products could be explored in order to expand access to affordable and good-quality HIV prevention products, diagnostics, medicine and treatment commodities for HIV, including opportunistic infections and co-infections,

Stressing that the HIV epidemic, with its devastating scale and impact on women and girls, is often aggravated by poverty, which requires urgent action across all internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda, in all fields and at all levels,

Stressing also that gender equality and the political, social and economic empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV, and that increased access to information, prevention programmes and treatment and elimination of HIV-related stigma, discrimination and violence are all essential to efforts towards ending HIV and AIDS,

Noting with concern that, despite the significant progress made in addressing the HIV epidemic, many countries have been unable to fulfil their pledges to achieve their commitments made in the 2001 and 2006 declarations on HIV/AIDS, including those related to women and girls, set to be achieved by 2010, and emphasizing in this regard the need to continue efforts to achieve these commitments and to accelerate progress towards meeting the 2015 goals outlined in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by the relevant actors, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the

commitments contained in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS,[29] the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,[30] the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,[31] the Beijing Platform for Action[3] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[28] towards achieving the vision of an AIDS-free world;

2. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support, and the resolve to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV, and stresses the urgency of significantly scaling up efforts towards meeting these goals, and in this regard looks forward to the review of the progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals and to the elaboration of the post-2015 development framework;

3. *Further reaffirms* the commitment, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and in Millennium Development Goal 5, to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, which encompasses integrating this goal into strategies to attain internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[32] aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality and empowering women, combating HIV and AIDS and eradicating extreme poverty and hunger;

4. *Stresses* the need to significantly increase and coordinate political and financial commitment to address gender equality and equity in national HIV and AIDS responses and to address HIV in the national gender response by responding to the specific needs of women and girls, including those living with and affected by HIV, and urges Governments to effectively reflect in their national policies, strategies and budgets the gender dimension of the epidemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, as well as the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and key actions for their further implementation;

5. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and girls and to protect and promote the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection, and to mitigate the impact of the epidemic, including through access to education, health, including sexual and reproductive health, social protection programmes, civil registration and other nationality documentation and the right to property and inheritance, as well as to strengthen the economic independence of women, including through employment and income-generation policies and strategies, decent work, political participation and decision-making at all levels;

6. *Emphasizes* the need for Governments and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that national HIV strategies and programmes comprehensively target women and girls in vulnerable groups and in populations that epidemiological evidence shows are at higher risk of HIV

infection, and to take measures to ensure that HIV services are accessible, non-discriminatory and affordable to them;

7. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the challenges faced by older women in accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, as well as in caring for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, including orphaned children in vulnerable situations;

8. *Encourages* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to scale up efforts to address the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and continuous provision of antiretroviral treatment;

9. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

10. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV and AIDS and sexual and reproductive health, and their inclusion in national development plans, and the need to design gender-based policies aimed at social and economic equality, including poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches, where they exist, as a necessary strategy for fighting the HIV epidemic and mitigating its impact on the population, which could result in more relevant and cost-effective interventions with greater impact;

11. *Urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from HIV infection, principally through the provision of health-care services, including for sexual and reproductive health, and that integrate HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and include voluntary counselling and testing, including through effective HIV prevention education that takes into account the epidemiological and national context, while also recognizing the importance of reducing risk-taking behaviour, and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence and fidelity, correct and consistent use of condoms and equality between men and women within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

12. *Also urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the situation faced by women and girls who provide care and/or economic support for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, who are often forced to drop out of school or employment, by increasing the provision of resources, support and facilities to the survivors and caregivers, in particular children, especially in women- and child-headed households, and older persons, as well as to facilitate the balanced sharing of the provision of care by both men and women;

13. *Further urges* Governments to ensure that the rights of children in child-headed households, many of whom have been orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, are respected and that the heads of such households have full enjoyment of all the rights of the child, and to further ensure that children

in child-headed households, particularly girls, receive the support they need to ensure their continued attendance in school;

14. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the situation faced by children and young persons, especially girls, who may be forced into child labour, including the worst forms of child labour, as a result of death or illness of family members or caregivers, and to protect these children and young persons from violence, including gender-based violence, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking and labour exploitation;

15. *Also urges* Governments to take measures to integrate, inter alia, family and community-based approaches in policies and programmes aimed at providing prevention, treatment, care and support to women and girls living with or affected by HIV and AIDS;

16. *Further urges* Governments to ensure, in the context of prevention programmes for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, accessible and affordable procurement of safe and effective prevention commodities, including male and female condoms, post-exposure prophylaxis and, where applicable, pre-exposure prophylaxis, to ensure that their supply is adequate and secure, and to promote ongoing research, including that for safe and effective microbicides;

17. *Urges* Governments:

(a) To commit to remove before 2015, where feasible, obstacles that limit the capacity of low- and middle-income countries to provide affordable and effective HIV prevention and treatment products, diagnostics, medicines and commodities and other pharmaceutical products, as well as treatment for opportunistic infections and co-infections, and to reduce costs associated with life-long chronic care, including by amending national laws and regulations, as deemed appropriate by respective Governments, so as to optimize the use, to the full, of existing flexibilities under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) specifically geared to promoting access to and trade in medicines, and, while recognizing the importance of the intellectual property rights regime in contributing to a more effective AIDS response, ensure that intellectual property rights provisions in trade agreements do not undermine these existing flexibilities, as confirmed in the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, and call for early acceptance of the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 6 December 2005;

(b) To address barriers, regulations, policies and practices that prevent access to affordable HIV treatment by promoting generic competition in order to help reduce costs associated with life-long chronic care and by encouraging all States to apply measures and procedures for enforcing intellectual property rights in such a manner as to avoid creating barriers to the legitimate trade in medicines, and to provide for safeguards against the abuse of such measures and procedures;

(c) To encourage the voluntary use, where appropriate, of new mechanisms such as partnerships, tiered pricing, open-source sharing of

patents and patent pools benefiting all developing countries, including through entities such as the Medicines Patent Pool, to help to reduce treatment costs and encourage development of new HIV treatment formulations, including HIV medicines and point-of-care diagnostics, in particular for children;

18. *Also urges* Governments to strengthen, implement and enforce legal, policy, administrative and other measures for preventing, eliminating and addressing the causes and consequences of all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage, domestic violence, violence at work, verbal and physical abuse, rape, including marital rape, and other forms of sexual violence and coerced sexual activity, battering and trafficking in women and girls, and to ensure that linkages between violence against women and HIV are addressed as an integral part of the national HIV and AIDS response;

19. *Further urges* Governments, where they have not yet done so, to institute and ensure the transparent and effective enforcement of laws and access to redress mechanisms to protect women and girls from child, early and forced marriage and marital rape;

20. *Urges* Governments to prioritize and expand access to treatment for all people, in all settings, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections and co-infections and other HIV-related conditions and the effective use of and adherence to anti-retroviral medication, including through access to clinical and laboratory testing and post-exposure prophylaxis, with the full protection of their human rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

21. *Also urges* Governments to promote access to affordable, high-quality, safe and effective drugs and related pharmaceutical commodities and supplies for women and girls for HIV, sexually transmitted infections and maternal health and family planning, and to collect data on treatment disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, marital status and continuity of care;

22. *Requests* Governments to promote and provide equal and equitable access for all persons without discrimination, throughout their life cycle, to social services related to health care, safe drinking water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food security, education programmes, including HIV prevention programmes, and social protection schemes, especially for women and girls living with or affected by HIV and AIDS;

23. *Emphasizes* the negative impact of HIV-related stigma, especially for women and girls, in seeking and accessing HIV and AIDS programmes, and urges Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of stigma and discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV and AIDS, including through strengthening national policies and legislation and challenging gender stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities, and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard, and emphas. es the need to develop and implement policies and programmes

designed to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination, so as to ensure the dignity, rights and privacy of people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS;

24. *Stresses* that women and girls should be empowered to protect themselves against violence and that, in this regard, women have the right to exercise control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence;

25. *Calls upon* all Governments, the international donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to prioritize programmes addressing the specific needs of women and girls, particularly those most vulnerable and at risk, in the HIV response and to take measures to ensure that resources commensurate with the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls are made available, in particular in funding provided to national HIV and AIDS programmes designed to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls in the context of the epidemic, to promote economic opportunities for women, including to diminish their financial vulnerability and their risk of exposure to HIV, and to achieve the gender-related goals set out, inter alia, in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 and 2011 Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS;

26. *Urges* Governments, the donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to support the development of capacities of women's organizations for HIV and AIDS programme development and implementation and to streamline funding procedures and requirements that will facilitate resource flows to community-level services;

27. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including confidential voluntary counselling and testing and elimination of mother-to-child/vertical transmission, with other primary health-care services, including those for tuberculosis and sexual and reproductive health-care services such as family planning, maternal health and prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including those causing infertility and cervical cancer, and encourages Governments to strive towards universal health coverage, meeting the needs of women and girls living with HIV;

28. *Encourages* the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors, bilateral and multilateral donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support to empower women and girls, and engage men and boys, and prevent HIV infection through measures to ensure promotion and effective implementation of combination prevention and to give urgent and priority attention to the situation of women and girls;

29. *Requests* the Secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes responding to the HIV and AIDS epidemic, as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations, to mainstream a gender and human rights perspective throughout their HIV- and AIDS-related operations, including policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation, that includes sex- and age-disaggregated

indicators, and to ensure that programmes and policies are developed and adequately resourced to address the specific needs of women and girls;

30. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to support national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the context of the "three ones" principles, to enable the production and dissemination of comprehensive and timely information on the gender dimension of the epidemic, including through the collection of data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, marital status and geographical location, and to raise awareness about the need to address the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV and AIDS, and encourages Member States to report on the relevant indicators for the global AIDS response progress reporting system;

31. *Stresses* the importance of Governments, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes developing and implementing strategies to improve infant HIV diagnosis, including through access to diagnostics at point of care, significantly increasing and improving access to treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV, including access to prophylaxis and treatments for opportunistic infections, and promoting a smooth transition from paediatric to adult treatment and related support and services, while taking into account the need to put in place programmes focused on delivering services to HIV-negative children born to women living with HIV, as they are still at high risk of morbidity and mortality;

32. *Encourages* Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, convened by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners, so as to mobilize and support a wide range of national actors, including women's groups and networks of women living with HIV, in order to ensure that national HIV and AIDS programmes are better able to respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls and adolescents;

33. *Welcomes* the Global Plan towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections among Children by 2015 and Keeping their Mothers Alive and takes note of the Secretary-General's Every Woman, Every Child initiative, as well as national, regional and international initiatives contributing to reduction of the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths, and urges Governments to rapidly scale up access to HIV prevention and treatment programmes integrated with family planning and maternal and child health programmes designed to eliminate mother-to-child/vertical transmission of HIV and reduce HIV-related maternal mortality by 50 per cent by 2015, to encourage men to participate with women in such programmes, address barriers faced by women and girls in accessing such programmes and provide sustained treatment and care for the mother after pregnancy, including care and support for the family;

34. *Expresses concern* that the majority of new HIV infections in women occur in marriage or long-term relationships, and encourages the design and implementation of programmes, including awareness-raising programmes, to encourage and enable men, including young men, to adopt safe, non-coercive and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections;

35. *Stresses* the importance of Governments in ensuring that young men and women have access to information and education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV prevention education, including comprehensive evidence-based education for human sexuality, based on full and accurate information, for all adolescents and youth, in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities, with the appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the involvement of children, adolescents, youth, communities, educators and health-care providers, that builds informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills, develops self-esteem and promotes respectful relationships, as well as services necessary for behaviour change, so as to enable them to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infections and reproductive ill health;

36. *Urges* Governments, employers' and workers' organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to take measures in and through workplaces to prevent and reduce the transmission of HIV and alleviate its impact by ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women, including ensuring actions to prevent and prohibit violence, discrimination and harassment in the workplace, in line with the Recommendation concerning HIV and AIDS and the World of Work, 2010 (No. 200), of the International Labour Organization, and facilitate provision of current information on HIV and AIDS through employment programmes and services and in vocational training, especially for youth;

37. *Encourages* Governments and all other relevant actors, in the context of prevention programmes for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, to ensure accessible and affordable procurement of safe and effective prevention commodities and to promote funding, both domestically and externally, and to support and expedite action-oriented research leading to affordable, safe and effective methods controlled by women to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, including the use of female condoms, microbicides and vaccines, and research on strategies that empower women to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and methods of care, support and treatment for women of various ages, and to promote their involvement in all aspects of such research, as well as to ensure that gender-equality implications are a key component of research, implementation and evaluation of new prevention methods and that new prevention methods are part of a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention that protects and supports the rights of women and girls;

38. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV, young people and civil society actors, in particular women's organizations, in addressing the problem of HIV and AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and to promote their full involvement and participation and leadership in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV and AIDS programmes, as well as in creating an enabling environment for combating stigmatization and discrimination;

39. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which is a pivotal mechanism for achieving universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support by

2015, and urges further contributions to sustain the Global Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

40. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the drivers and impact of the epidemic, which should be used in planning for comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS;

41. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support of national efforts against HIV/AIDS, particularly with respect to women and young girls, including efforts to provide affordable antiretroviral drugs, diagnostics and drugs to treat tuberculosis and other opportunistic infections, strengthening of health systems and training of medical personnel, including reliable distribution and delivery systems, implementation of a strong generic drug policy, bulk purchasing, negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to reduce prices, appropriate financing systems, and encouraging local manufacturing and import practices consistent with national laws and international agreements, particularly in the worst-hit regions in Africa and where the epidemic is severely setting back national development gains;

42. *Urges* the international community to complement and supplement, through increased international development assistance, efforts of the developing countries that commit increased national funds to fighting the HIV and AIDS epidemic, and especially to address the needs of women and girls around the world, in particular in those countries most affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic, particularly in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Caribbean and in regions and countries where HIV incidence is increasing;

43. *Recommends* that a bold vision for addressing the HIV epidemic, including the situation of women and girls living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, with an emphasis on accelerated actions taken in regard to women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Political Declarations on HIV and AIDS, using information provided by Member States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of women and the girl child.

Decision 58/101
Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women*

5. At its 17th meeting, on 21 March, the Commission on the Status of Women decided to take note of the following documents:

* For the discussion, see chap. II, para. 107 and chap. IV, para. 112.

Under agenda item 3

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;[37]

Report of the Secretary-General on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls;[38]

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls;[39]

Note by the Secretariat containing a discussion guide for the high-level round table on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls;[40]

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women;[41]

Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts;[42]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women;[43]

Report of the Secretary-General on actions to strengthen linkages between gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity;[44]

Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS;[45]

Report of the Secretary-General on gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters;[46]

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means to further enhance the impact of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women;[47]

Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017: Programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women.[48]

[37] E/CN.6/2014/2.
[38] E/CN.6/2014/3.
[39] E/CN.6/2014/4.
[40] E/CN.6/2014/5.
[41] E/CN.6/2014/6.
[42] E/CN.6/2014/7.
[43] A/HRC/26/17-E/CN.6/2014/8.
[44] E/CN.6/2014/11.
[45] E/CN.6/2014/12.
[46] E/CN.6/2014/13.
[47] E/CN.6/2014/14.
[48] E/CN.6/2014/CRP.3.

Under agenda item 5

Letter dated 20 December 2013 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women:[49]

Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council.[50]

[49] E/CN.6/2014/9.
[50] E/CN.6/2014/10.

Chapter II

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

6. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd to 13th meetings, from 10 to 18 March 2014, and at its 15th to 17th meetings, on 20 and 21 March 2014. It held general discussions at its 2nd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 10th, 11th and 15th meetings. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (E/CN.6/2014/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (E/CN.6/2014/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective into the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (E/CN.6/2014/4);

(d) Note by the Secretariat containing a discussion guide for the high-level round table on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (E/CN.6/2014/5);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2014/6);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts (E/CN.6/2014/7);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (A/HRC/26/17-E/CN.6/2014/8);

(h) Letter dated 20 December 2013 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2014/9);

(i) Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2014/10);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on the actions to strengthen linkages between gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity (E/CN.6/2014/11);

(k) Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS (E/CN.6/2014/12);

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters (E/CN.6/2014/13);

(m) Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means to further enhance the impact of the work of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2014/14);

(n) Note by the secretariat on the results of the fifty-fourth, fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2014/CRP.1);

(o) Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017: Programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women (E/CN.6/2014/CRP.3);

(p) Note by the Secretariat (E/CN.6/2014/CRP.4);

(q) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2014/NGO/1-174).

7. At the 2nd meeting, on 10 March, the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Commission.

8. At the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Executive Director of UN-Women; and the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

9. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Dominican Republic (on behalf of the Council of Ministers for Women in Central America), Indonesia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Gambia.

10. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Plurinational State of Bolivia (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Guinea-Bissau (on behalf of the Group of African States), Greece (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine), Costa Rica (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Guyana (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Malawi (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (on behalf of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)), Guinea (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference) and Poland.

11. At the 2nd meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Commission agreed that the Chair's summary of the discussion of the high-level round table (E/CN.6/2014/INF/2)[51] and the Moderators' summaries of the panel discussions (E/CN.6/2014/INF/3, E/CN.6/2014/INF/4, E/CN.6/2014/INF/5, E/CN.6/2014/INF/6 and E/CN.6/2014/INF/7)[51] would be referred to in the report of the fifty-eighth session.

[51] Available from the website of the Commission.

12. At the 4th meeting, on 11 March, statements were made by the representatives of Finland, Spain, the Republic of Korea, Uganda, the Dominican Republic, the Netherlands, Japan, Jamaica, Lesotho and the United States of America.

13. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Kiribati (on behalf of the Pacific Islands Forum), Morocco, France, Nigeria, Mexico, Ghana, Mali, the Bahamas, Samoa, Zambia, New Zealand, South Africa, Azerbaijan, Iceland, Luxembourg, Egypt, Afghanistan and Slovenia.

14. At the 5th meeting, on 11 March, statements were made by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and the Chair of the Non-Governmental Organization Committee on the Status of Women.

15. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Malaysia, Niger, Indonesia, Thailand, Georgia, Argentina, the Philippines and Cuba.

16. Also at the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Mozambique, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ethiopia, Benin, Nicaragua, Canada, Senegal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Australia, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Sweden, Haiti, Cameroon, Kuwait, Denmark, Eritrea, Togo, Sierra Leone, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway, Turkey, Costa Rica, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, Tunisia, Italy, Seychelles, the United Arab Emirates, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Peru and Cambodia.

17. Also at the 5th meeting, the observer for the State of Palestine made a statement.

18. At the 6th meeting, on 12 March, an opening address was made by the President of the Economic and Social Council (Austria).

19. At the 8th meeting, on 13 March, statements were made by the representatives of Paraguay, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burkina Faso, the Sudan, Zimbabwe, Brazil, Mongolia, Switzerland and Pakistan.

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Congo, Fiji (on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States), the Czech Republic, Mauritania, Albania, Burundi, Rwanda, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Angola, Kenya, Guinea, Tonga, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Greece, Bahrain, the Marshall Islands and Suriname.

21. At the 10th meeting, on 17 March, statements were made by the representatives of El Salvador, Uruguay, Swaziland, Estonia, Belgium, Bangladesh, Libya and Ecuador.

22. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for the United Republic of Tanzania, Namibia, Panama, Mauritius, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, India, the Syrian Arab Republic, Viet Nam, Croatia, Singapore, Myanmar, Malta, Fiji, Qatar, Tuvalu, Sri Lanka, Montenegro, Botswana, Gabon and the Maldives.

23. Also at the same meeting, the observer for the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement in the exercise of the right of reply.

24. At the 11th meeting, on 17 March, statements were made by the representatives of Belarus, China, Germany and the Russian Federation.

25. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Colombia, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Algeria, Chile, Saudi Arabia, Honduras, Iraq, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Solomon Islands, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Liechtenstein and Ukraine.

26. Also at the same meeting, the observer for the Holy See made a statement.

27. At the 11th meeting, the observers for the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions, the International Olympic Committee, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, the African Union and the League of Arab States made statements.

28. Also at the 11th meeting, the representatives of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the Economic Commission for Africa (also on behalf of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) made statements.

29. At the same meeting, the observer for Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization, also made a statement.

30. Also at the 11th meeting, the representatives of Japan and China and the observers for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Syrian Arab Republic made statements in the exercise of the right of reply.

31. At the 15th meeting, on 20 March, the observer for Tajikistan made a statement.

32. At the same meeting, the representative of the International Development Law Organization also made a statement.

33. Also at the same meeting, the observers of the following non-governmental organizations made statements: Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development; Center for Women's Global Leadership and Association for Women's Rights in Development; Coalition against Trafficking in Women; Equality Now; Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit-COC Nederland; Federation for Women and Family Planning; Feminist Majority Foundation; Femmes Afrique solidarité; HelpAge International; Human Rights Now; Indian Law Resource Centre; International Federation of University Women; International PEN; International Trade Union Confederation; International Women's Health Coalition; IPAS; Presbyterian Church USA; Stichting Rutgers WPF; Women for Human Rights, Single Women Group; Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights; World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts; International Association of Democratic Lawyers; and Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe.

A. Agenda item 3 (a) (i)

Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: priority theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls

1. High-level round table*

34. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 March, the Commission held a high-level round table in two parallel meetings on the priority theme "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls".

High-level round table A

35. High-level round table A was chaired by the Chair of the Commission, Libran Cabactulan (Philippines), who made an opening statement.

36. The following delegations participated in the interactive dialogue: Italy, Australia, Finland, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Azerbaijan, United States of America, Uganda, Portugal, Mozambique, Switzerland, Gambia, Brazil, Mongolia, Argentina, Norway, Indonesia, Paraguay, Nigeria, Philippines, Panama, Solomon Islands, Cuba and El Salvador.

37. The observer for the European Union also participated.

38. The Chair of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women, Frances Raday, and the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women, Lakshmi Puri, responded to the questions and comments from delegations and summarized the key points of the discussion.

High-level round table B

39. The Commission held a high-level round table chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Carlos Enriquez García González (El Salvador).

40. The following delegations participated in the interactive dialogue: Turkey, Malaysia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Peru, Eritrea, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Egypt, Greece, Nicaragua, Mexico, Tunisia, Morocco, Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Samoa, Spain, Denmark, China, Sudan, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Sweden.

41. The Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on post-2015 Development Planning, Amina Mohammed, and Gita Sen, of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, responded to the questions and comments from delegations and summarized the key points of the discussion.

42. The Vice-Chair of the Commission (El Salvador) made concluding remarks.

* See the Chair's summary of the round-table discussion (E/CN.6/2014/INF/2), available from the website of the Commission.

2. Panel discussion

*Panel 1**

43. At its 6th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on the priority theme, "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls", moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Christine Löw (Switzerland).

44. Presentations were made by Chrispine Gwalavala Sibande, Senior Policy Adviser, IPAS, Malawi; Ursula Schäfer-Preuss, Chair, Global Water Partnership, Stockholm; Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director, Center for Women's Global Leadership, and Professor, Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University, New Jersey; Virginia Gomes, Senior Social Policy Adviser, Ministry of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security, Portugal; and Isabel Ortiz, Director, Social Protection Department, International Labour Organization.

45. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: China, Philippines, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Finland, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Gambia and Ecuador.

46. The observers for Canada, Nigeria, South Africa, the Czech Republic, Panama, the Maldives, Mexico and Egypt also participated.

47. The observer for the European Union also participated.

48. The observers for the following non-government organizations also participated in the dialogue: International Rescue Committee and International Trade Union Confederation.

*Panel 2***

49. At its 7th meeting, on 12 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on the priority theme, "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls", with a focus on accountability and participation of women and girls in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Neli Shiolashvili (Georgia).

50. Presentations were made by Lourdes Bandeira, Vice-Minister, Secretariat of Women Policies of the Presidency of Brazil; Urmas Paet, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Estonia; Carolyn Sobritchea, Professorial Lecturer, Asian Center of the University of the Philippines; Salina Sanou, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development; and Maarit Kohonen Sheriff, Deputy Director, New York Office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

51. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: China, Germany, Indonesia,

* See the moderator's summary of the panel discussion (E/CN.6/2014/INF/6), available from the website of the Commission.

** See the moderator's summary of the panel discussion (E/CN.6/2014/INF/3), available from the website of the Commission.

Switzerland, Niger, Uganda, Cuba, El Salvador, Islamic Republic of Iran, Burkina Faso, Dominican Republic and Finland.

52. The observers for South Africa, Samoa, Angola, Turkey, the Czech Republic, Timor-Leste, Nigeria and Somalia also participated.

53. The observer for the European Union also participated.

54. The observers for the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: National Alliance of Women's Organization; the United Cities and Local Governments; and the Human Rights Advocate.

B. Panel discussion under agenda item 3 (a) (ii)

Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work*

55. At its 12th meeting, on 18 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on the review theme, "Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work", in two segments.

56. The first segment focused on women and girls in science, technology, engineering and math education, and was moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Carlos Enriquez Garcia González (El Salvador).*

57. A keynote address was delivered by Gloria Bonder, Director, Gender, Society and Policies Area, Latin American Graduate School of Social Sciences, Argentina.

58. Presentations were made by Njideka Harry, President and Chief Executive Officer, Youth for Technology Foundation; Leigh Ann DeLyser, computer science education consultant, New York City Department of Education; and Luna Ruiz, student, Academy of Software Engineering.

59. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Philippines, Finland, Japan, Switzerland, Indonesia, Sudan, Uganda, Ecuador, Gambia, Pakistan, Islamic Republic of Iran and El Salvador.

60. The observers for Italy, Kuwait, Panama, the United Arab Emirates, Tajikistan, Belarus, the United Republic of Tanzania and Senegal, also participated.

61. The observer for the European Union also participated.

62. The observer for Education International, a non-governmental organization, also participated.

* See the moderator's summary of the panel discussion (E/CN.6/2014/INF/7), available from the website of the Commission.

63. Samiye Gülser Corat, Director, Division for Gender Equality, Office of the Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, summarized the discussion.

64. The second segment focused on women in science, technology, engineering and math employment, and was moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Neli Shiolashvili (Georgia).*

65. Presentations were made by MHind Alowais, Counsellor, United Arab Emirates, on behalf of Lamya Fawwaz, Executive Director of Public Affairs, Masdar Institute of Science and Technology; and Londa Schiebinger, John L. Hinds Professor of the History of Science, Stanford University.

66. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the following delegations participated: Pakistan, Burkina Faso, Philippines, Finland, Republic of Korea, Switzerland and Uganda.

67. The observers for Senegal, Italy, Colombia, Nigeria and the Syrian Arab Republic also participated.

68. The observer for the European Union also participated.

69. The observer for Mujer para la Mujer, a non-governmental organization, also participated.

70. The Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Lakshmi Puri, summarized the discussion.

C. Panel discussion under agenda item 3 (b)

Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men: women's access to productive resources**

71. At its 9th meeting, on 13 March, the Commission held a panel discussion on "Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men: women's access to productive resources", moderated by the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Mohamed Elbahi (Sudan).

72. Presentations were made by Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on extreme poverty and human rights; Mariam Gabala Dao, Regional Manager for West Africa, Oikocredit; Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Founder and Executive Director, Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education), Philippines; and Martha "Pati" Ruiz Corzo, Founder and Director, Sierra Gorda Ecological Group.

* See the moderator's summary of the panel discussion (E/CN.6/2014/INF/5), available from the website of the Commission.

** See the moderator's summary of the panel discussions (E/CN.6/2014/INF/4), available from the website of the Commission.

73. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists in which the following delegations participated: Switzerland, Sudan, Finland, Malaysia, Uganda, Indonesia, Philippines, Cuba, China, Islamic Republic of Iran and Ecuador.

74. The observers for Mexico, Iraq, Costa Rica, Italy, Eritrea, Nigeria, Sweden, Cameroon, Zambia, Kuwait, Morocco, Botswana, Samoa, the Solomon Islands and the United Republic of Tanzania also participated.

75. The observers for the European Union and the Economic Community of West African States also participated.

76. The observers for the following non-governmental organizations also participated in the dialogue: International Association of Women in Radio and Television and Public Services International.

Action taken by the Commission

Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

77. At the 15th meeting, on 20 March, the observer for Azerbaijan, also on behalf of Belarus and Georgia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts" (E/CN.6/2014/L.3).

78. At the 16th meeting, on 21 March, the observer for Azerbaijan made a statement and announced that Argentina, Armenia and Turkey had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Subsequently, the United States of America also joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

79. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

80. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 58/1).

Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters

81. At the 15th meeting, on 20 March, the representative of Japan, also on behalf of Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Palau, Panama, Peru, Poland, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters" (E/CN.6/2014/L.4). Subsequently, Croatia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Indonesia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

82. At the 16th meeting, on 21 March, the representative of Japan made a statement and announced that Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Finland, France, the Gambia, Georgia, Honduras, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique,

Myanmar, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Subsequently, Benin, Burundi, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Uganda also joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

83. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

84. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 58/2).

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

85. At the 15th meeting, on 20 March, the observer for Malawi, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS" (E/CN.6/2014/L.5), which read:

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, the HIV and AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV, as well as the commitments on HIV and AIDS made at the 2005 World Summit, the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the leadership and commitment shown in every aspect of the HIV and AIDS response by Governments, people living with HIV, political and community leaders, parliaments, regional and subregional organizations, communities, families, faith-based organizations, scientists, health professionals, donors, the philanthropic community, workforces, the business sector, civil society and the media, including the African Union Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa,

Reaffirming that prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to end the epidemic, and recognizing the need to ensure the respect, promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS,

Reaffirming also the need to eradicate poverty, which can contribute to the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV infection and aggravate the impact of the epidemic by depleting resources and incomes, thereby contributing to inadequate food and nutrition, which leads to poor treatment outcomes, and to impoverishment owing to loss of income and increased health expenditures, and endangers the survival of present and future generations,

Noting with concern that violence against women and girls, including harmful practices, are among the contributory factors to the spread of HIV, and further noting with appreciation the Secretary-General's 2008-2015 campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women",

Recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are at increased risk of HIV infection,

Concerned that women and girls with disabilities face increased vulnerability to HIV as a result of, inter alia, legal, social and economic inequalities, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and violations of their rights,

Concerned also that the global HIV and AIDS epidemic disproportionately affects women and girls and reinforces gender inequalities, that the majority of new HIV infections in young people aged 15 to 19 years occur among girls, and also concerned that women and girls bear the disproportionate burden of caring for and supporting people living with and affected by HIV, and that they become more vulnerable to poverty as a result of the epidemic,

Concerned further that women and girls are physiologically more vulnerable to HIV than men and boys, especially at an early age, and that this vulnerability is increased by their unequal legal, economic and social status, including poverty as well as other negative cultural factors, violence against women, girls and adolescents, child, early and forced marriage, premature and coerced sexual relations, sexual exploitation including commercial sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and other harmful practices,

Noting with alarm the rise in the incidence of HIV among people who inject drugs and that, despite continuing increased efforts by all relevant stakeholders, the drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to, among other things, public health and safety and the well-being of humanity, in particular women and girls and their families, and recognizing that much more needs to be done to effectively combat the world drug problem,

Deeply concerned that there are women, including young women, living with HIV who would like to space or limit pregnancy but are currently not using an effective method of contraception owing to limited access to voluntary family planning services and a broad range of contraceptive methods,

Noting with concern the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by sex workers, especially women sex workers, who are 13.5 times more likely to be living with HIV than other women worldwide, and reiterates the importance of

addressing gender-based violence faced by sex workers and ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as part of national responses to HIV and AIDS,

Concerned that HIV infection rates are higher among young people, especially young and married women, who do not finish primary school as among those who do,

Concerned also that women and young women have unequal access to health resources, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, for the prevention of HIV infection and treatment of and care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS,

Noting with concern that regulations, policies and practices, including those that limit legitimate trade of generic medicines, may seriously limit access to affordable HIV treatment and other pharmaceutical products in low- and middle-income countries, and recognizing that improvements can be made, inter alia through national legislation, regulatory policy and supply chain management, and noting that reductions in barriers to affordable products could be explored in order to expand access to affordable and good quality HIV prevention products, diagnostics, medicine and treatment commodities for HIV, including opportunistic infections and co-infections,

Stressing that the HIV and AIDS epidemic, with its devastating scale and impact on women and girls, is often aggravated by poverty, which requires urgent action across all internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda in all fields and at all levels,

Stressing also that gender equality and the political, social and economic empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV, and that increased access to information, prevention programmes and treatment and elimination of HIV-related stigma, discrimination and violence are all essential to efforts towards ending HIV and AIDS,

Noting with concern that, despite the significant progress made in addressing the HIV and AIDS epidemic, many countries have been unable to fulfil their pledges to achieve their commitments made in the 2001 and 2006 declarations on HIV/AIDS, including those related to women and girls, set to be achieved by 2010, and emphasizing in this regard the need to continue efforts to achieve these commitments and to accelerate progress towards meeting the 2015 goals outlined in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by the relevant actors, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments contained in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, towards achieving the vision of an AIDS-free world;

2. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support, and the resolve to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV, and stresses the urgency of significantly scaling up efforts towards meeting these goals, and in this regard looks forward to the review of the progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals and to the elaboration of the post-2015 development framework;

3. *Further reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and in Millennium Development Goal 5, which encompasses integrating this goal into strategies to attain internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality and empowering women, combating HIV and AIDS and eradicating extreme poverty and hunger;

4. *Stresses* the need to significantly increase and coordinate political and financial commitment to address gender equality and equity in national HIV and AIDS responses and to address HIV in the national gender response by responding to the specific needs of women and girls, including those living with and affected by HIV, and urges Governments to effectively reflect in their national policies, strategies and budgets the gender dimension of the epidemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, as well as the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development;

5. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and girls, including through access to education, health, including sexual and reproductive health, social protection programmes, civil registration and other nationality documentation and the right to property and inheritance, as well as to strengthen the economic independence of women, including through employment and income generation policies and strategies, decent work, political participation and decision-making at all levels, and to protect and promote the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for women and girls in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection and to mitigate the impact of the epidemic;

6. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that national HIV strategies comprehensively target women and girls at higher risk of HIV infection, and to take measures to ensure that HIV services are accessible and affordable to them;

7. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the challenges faced by older women in accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, as well as in caring for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, including orphaned children in vulnerable situations;

8. *Encourages* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to scale up efforts to address the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV in situations

of armed conflict and post-conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and continuous provision of antiretroviral treatment;

9. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

10. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV and AIDS and sexual and reproductive health, and their inclusion in national development plans, and the need to design gender-based policies aimed at social and economic equality including poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches, where they exist, as a necessary strategy for fighting the HIV and AIDS epidemic and mitigating its impact on the population, which could result in more relevant and cost-effective interventions with greater impact;

11. *Urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from HIV infection, principally through the provision of health-care services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and that integrate HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and include voluntary counselling and testing, including through HIV prevention education that promotes abstinence and fidelity, delay of sexual debut, reduction of sexual partners, correct and consistent use of condoms and equality between men and women within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

12. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the situation faced by women and girls who provide care and or economic support for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, who are often forced to drop out of school or employment, by increasing the provision of resources, support and facilities to the survivors and caregivers, in particular children, especially in women and child-headed households, and older persons, as well as to facilitate the balanced sharing of the provision of care by both men and women;

13. *Urges* Governments to ensure that the rights of children in child-headed households, many of whom have been orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, are respected and that the heads of such households have full enjoyment of all the rights of the child, and to further ensure that children in child-headed households, particularly girls, receive the support they need to ensure their continued attendance in school;

14. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the situation faced by children and young persons, especially girls, who may be forced into child labour, including the worst forms of child labour, as a result of death or illness of family members or caregivers, and to protect these children and young persons from violence, including gender-based violence, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking and labour exploitation;

15. *Urges* Governments to take measures to integrate, inter alia, family and community-based approaches in policies and programmes aimed at providing prevention, treatment, care and support to women and girls living with or affected by HIV and AIDS;

16. *Also urges* Governments to ensure, in the context of prevention programmes for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, accessible and affordable procurement of safe and effective prevention commodities, including male and female condoms, post-exposure prophylaxis and, where applicable, pre-exposure prophylaxis, to ensure that their supply is adequate and secure, and to promote ongoing research, including that for safe and effective microbicides;

17. *Reaffirms* the commitment of Governments to optimize the use, to the full, of existing flexibilities under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights specifically geared to promoting access to and trade in medicines, to increase access to treatment where applicable, and, while recognizing the importance of the intellectual property rights regime in contributing to a more effective AIDS response, ensure that intellectual property rights provisions in trade agreements do not undermine these existing flexibilities, as undertaken in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS;

18. *Urges* Governments to strengthen, implement and enforce legal, policy, administrative and other measures for preventing, eliminating and addressing the causes and consequences of all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage, domestic violence, violence at work, verbal and physical abuse, rape, including marital rape, and other forms of sexual violence and coerced sexual activity, battering and trafficking in women and girls, and to ensure that linkages between violence against women and HIV are addressed as an integral part of the national HIV and AIDS response;

19. *Also urges* Governments, where they have not yet done so, to institute and ensure the transparent and effective enforcement of laws and access to redress mechanisms to protect women and girls from child, early and forced marriage and marital rape;

20. *Further urges* Governments to prioritize and expand access to treatment for all people, in all settings, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections and co-infections and other HIV-related conditions and the effective use of and adherence to antiretroviral medication, including through access to clinical and laboratory testing and post-exposure prophylaxis, with the full protection of their human rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;[1]

21. *Urges* Governments to promote access to affordable, high-quality, safe and effective drugs and related pharmaceutical commodities and supplies for women and girls for HIV, sexually transmitted infections and maternal

health and family planning, and to collect data on treatment disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, marital status and continuity of care;

22. *Requests* Governments to promote and provide equal and equitable access for all persons without discrimination, throughout their life cycle, to social services related to health care, clean water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food security, education programmes, including HIV prevention programmes, and social protection schemes, especially for women and girls living with or affected by HIV and AIDS;

23. *Emphasizes* the negative impact of HIV-related stigma, especially for women and girls, in seeking and accessing HIV and AIDS programmes, and urges Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of stigma and discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV and AIDS, including through strengthening national policies and legislation and challenging gender stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities, and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard, and emphasizes the need to develop and implement policies and programmes designed to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination, so as to ensure the dignity, rights and privacy of people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS;

24. *Calls upon* all Governments, the international donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to prioritize programmes addressing the specific needs of women and girls, particularly those most vulnerable and at risk, in the HIV response and to take measures to ensure that resources commensurate with the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls are made available, in particular in funding provided to national HIV and AIDS programmes designed to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls in the context of the epidemic, to promote economic opportunities for women, including to diminish their financial vulnerability and their risk of exposure to HIV, and to achieve the gender-related goals set out, inter alia, in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 and 2011 Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS;

25. *Urges* Governments, the donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to support the development of capacities of women's organizations for HIV and AIDS programme development and implementation, and to streamline funding procedures and requirements that will facilitate resource flows to community-level services;

26. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including confidential voluntary counselling and testing and elimination of mother-to-child vertical transmission, with other primary health-care services, including those for tuberculosis and sexual and reproductive health-care services such as family planning, maternal health, prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including those causing infertility and cervical cancer, and encourages Governments to strive towards universal health coverage, meeting the needs of women and girls living with HIV;

27. *Encourages* the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors, bilateral and multilateral donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support to empower women

and girls, and engage men and boys, and prevent HIV infection through measures to ensure promotion and effective implementation of combination prevention and to give urgent and priority attention to the situation of women and girls;

28. *Requests* the Secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes responding to the HIV and AIDS epidemic, as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations, to mainstream a gender and human rights perspective throughout their HIV- and AIDS-related operations, including policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation, that includes sex- and age-disaggregated indicators, and to ensure that programmes and policies are developed and adequately resourced to address the specific needs of women and girls;

29. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to support national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the context of the "three ones" principles, to enable the production and dissemination of comprehensive and timely information on the gender dimension of the epidemic, including through the collection of data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, marital status and geographical location, and to raise awareness about the need to address the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV and AIDS, and encourages Member States to report on the relevant indicators for the global AIDS response progress reporting system;

30. *Stresses* the importance of Governments, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes developing and implementing strategies to improve infant HIV diagnosis, including through access to diagnostics at point of care, significantly increasing and improving access to treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV, including access to prophylaxis and treatments for opportunistic infections, and promoting a smooth transition from paediatric to adult treatment and related support and services, while taking into account the need to put in place programmes focused on delivering services to HIV-negative children born to women living with HIV, as they are still at high risk of morbidity and mortality;

31. *Encourages* Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, convened by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners, so as to mobilize and support a wide range of national actors, including women's groups and networks of women living with HIV, in order to ensure that national HIV and AIDS programmes are better able to respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls and adolescents;

32. *Welcomes* the Global Plan towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections among Children by 2015 and Keeping their Mothers Alive and takes note of the Secretary-General's Every Woman, Every Child initiative, as well as national, regional and international initiatives contributing to reduction of the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths, and urges Governments to rapidly scale up access to HIV prevention and treatment programmes integrated with family planning and maternal and child health programmes designed to eliminate mother-to-child/vertical transmission of

HIV and reduce HIV-related maternal mortality by 50 per cent by 2015, to encourage men to participate with women in such programmes, address barriers faced by women and girls in accessing such programmes and provide sustained treatment and care for the mother after pregnancy, including care and support for the family;

33. *Expresses concern* that the majority of new HIV infections in women occur in marriage or long-term relationships and encourages the design and implementation of programmes, including awareness-raising programmes, to encourage and enable men, including young men, to adopt safe, non-coercive and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections;

34. *Stresses* the importance of Governments in ensuring that young men and women have access to information and education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV education, sex education and services necessary for behavioural change so as to enable them to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infections and reproductive ill health, in full partnership with young persons, parents, families, educators and health-care providers;

35. *Urges* Governments, employers' and workers' organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to take measures in and through workplaces to prevent and reduce the transmission of HIV and alleviate its impact by ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women, including ensuring actions to prevent and prohibit violence, discrimination and harassment in the workplace, in line with International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 200 concerning HIV and AIDS and the world of work, and facilitate provision of current information on HIV and AIDS through employment programmes and services and in vocational training, especially for youth;

36. *Encourages* Governments and all other relevant actors, in the context of prevention programmes for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, to ensure accessible and affordable procurement of safe and effective prevention commodities and to promote funding, both domestically and externally, and to support and expedite action-oriented research leading to affordable, safe and effective methods controlled by women to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, including the use of female condoms, microbicides and vaccines, and research on strategies that empower women to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and methods of care, support and treatment for women of various ages, and to promote their involvement in all aspects of such research as well as to ensure that gender-equality implications are a key component of research, implementation and evaluation of new prevention methods and that new prevention methods are part of a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention that protects and supports the rights of women and girls;

37. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV, young people and civil society actors, in particular women's organizations, in addressing the problem of HIV and AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and to promote their full involvement and participation and leadership in the

design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV and AIDS programmes, as well as in creating an enabling environment for combating stigmatization and discrimination;

38. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which is a pivotal mechanism for achieving universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support by 2015, and urges further contributions to sustain the Global Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

39. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the drivers and impact of the epidemic, which should be used in planning for comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS;

40. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support of national efforts against HIV AIDS, particularly with respect to women and young girls, including efforts to provide affordable antiretroviral drugs, diagnostics and drugs to treat tuberculosis and other opportunistic infections, strengthening of health systems and training of medical personnel, including reliable distribution and delivery systems, implementation of a strong generic drug policy, bulk purchasing, negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to reduce prices, appropriate financing systems, and encouraging local manufacturing and import practices consistent with national laws and international agreements, particularly in the worst-hit regions in Africa and where the epidemic is severely setting back national development gains;

41. *Urges* the international community to complement and supplement, through increased international development assistance, efforts of the developing countries that commit increased national funds to fighting the HIV and AIDS epidemic, and especially to address the needs of women and girls around the world, in particular in those countries most affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic, particularly in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Caribbean and in regions and countries where HIV incidence is increasing;

42. *Recommends* that a bold vision for addressing the HIV epidemic, including the situation of women and girls living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, with an emphasis on accelerated actions taken in regard to women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Political Declarations on HIV and AIDS, using information provided by Member States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of women and the girl child.

85. At the 17th meeting, on 21 March, the Commission had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS", contained in an informal paper, in English only, submitted by Malawi, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community, which read:

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and key actions for its further implementation, the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, the HIV and AIDS-related goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV, as well as the commitments on HIV and AIDS made at the 2005 World Summit, the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, the 2013 special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

Welcoming the leadership and commitment shown in every aspect of the HIV and AIDS response by Governments, people living with HIV, political and community leaders, parliaments, regional and subregional organizations, communities, families, faith-based organizations, scientists, health professionals, donors, the philanthropic community, workforces, the business sector, civil society and the media, including the African Union Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa,

Reaffirming that prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive approach to end the epidemic, and recognizing the need to ensure the respect, promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS,

Reaffirming also the need to eradicate poverty, which can contribute to the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV infection and aggravate the impact of the epidemic by depleting resources and incomes, thereby contributing to inadequate food and nutrition, which leads to poor treatment outcomes, and to impoverishment owing to loss of income and increased health expenditures, and endangers the survival of present and future generations,

Noting with concern that violence against women and girls, including harmful practices, is among the contributory factors to the spread of HIV, and noting with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations system to end violence against women and girls, including the campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women",

Recognizing that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including refugees, internally

displaced persons and, in particular, women and children, are at increased risk of HIV infection,

Concerned that women and girls with disabilities face increased vulnerability to HIV as a result of, inter alia, legal, social and economic inequalities, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and violations of their rights,

Concerned also that the global HIV epidemic disproportionately affects women and girls and reinforces gender inequalities, that the majority of new HIV infections in young people aged 15 to 19 years occur among girls, and also concerned that women and girls bear the disproportionate burden of caring for and supporting people living with and affected by HIV, and that they become more vulnerable to poverty as a result of the epidemic,

Concerned further that women and girls are physiologically more vulnerable to HIV, especially at an earlier age, than men and boys, and that this is increased by violence against women, girls and adolescents, sexual exploitation including commercial sexual exploitation, premature and coerced sexual relations, harmful practices, such as child, early and force marriage, female genital mutilation, as well as an imbalance in the power dynamic between women and men, and unequal legal, economic and social status, including poverty,

Deeply concerned that there are women, including young women, living with HIV who would like to space or limit pregnancy but are currently not using an effective method of contraception owing to limited access to voluntary family planning services and a broad range of contraceptive methods,

Concerned that HIV infection rates are higher among young people, especially young and married women, who do not finish primary school as among those who do,

Concerned also that women and adolescent girls have unequal access to health resources, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, for the prevention of HIV infection and treatment of and care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS,

Noting with concern that regulations, policies and practices, including those that limit legitimate trade of generic medicines, may seriously limit access to affordable HIV treatment and other pharmaceutical products in low- and middle-income countries, and recognizing that improvements can be made, inter alia through national legislation, regulatory policy and supply chain management, and noting that reductions in barriers to affordable products could be explored in order to expand access to affordable and good quality HIV prevention products, diagnostics, medicine and treatment commodities for HIV, including opportunistic infections and co-infections,

Stressing that the HIV epidemic, with its devastating scale and impact on women and girls, is often aggravated by poverty, which requires urgent action across all internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda in all fields and at all levels,

Stressing also that gender equality and the political, social and economic empowerment of women and girls are fundamental elements in the reduction of their vulnerability to HIV, and that increased access to information, prevention programmes and treatment and elimination of HIV-related stigma, discrimination and violence are all essential to efforts towards ending HIV and AIDS,

Noting with concern that, despite the significant progress made in addressing the HIV epidemic, many countries have been unable to fulfil their pledges to achieve their commitments made in the 2001 and 2006 declarations on HIV/AIDS, including those related to women and girls, set to be achieved by 2010, and emphasizing in this regard the need to continue efforts to achieve these commitments and to accelerate progress towards meeting the 2015 goals outlined in the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,

1. *Reaffirms* the need for Governments, supported by the relevant actors, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify national efforts and international cooperation in the implementation of the commitments contained in the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, towards achieving the vision of an AIDS-free world;

2. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support, and the resolve to have halted, by 2015, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV, and stresses the urgency of significantly scaling up efforts towards meeting these goals, and in this regard looks forward to the review of the progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals and to the elaboration of the post-2015 development framework;

3. *Further reaffirms* the commitment, as set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and in Millennium Development Goal 5, to achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015, which encompasses integrating this goal into strategies to attain internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration aimed at reducing maternal mortality, improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, promoting gender equality and empowering women, combating HIV and AIDS and eradicating extreme poverty and hunger;

4. *Stresses* the need to significantly increase and coordinate political and financial commitment to address gender equality and equity in national HIV and AIDS responses and to address HIV in the national gender response by responding to the specific needs of women and girls, including those living with and affected by HIV, and urges Governments to effectively reflect in their national policies, strategies and budgets the gender dimension of the epidemic, in line with the time-bound goals of the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, as well as the goals of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and key actions for their further implementation;

5. *Urges* Governments to take all necessary measures to create an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and girls and to protect and promote the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection, and to mitigate the impact of the epidemic, including through access to education, health, including sexual and reproductive health, social protection programmes, civil registration and other nationality documentation and the right to property and inheritance, as well as to strengthen the economic independence of women, including through employment and income-generation policies and strategies, decent work, political participation and decision-making at all levels;

6. *Emphasizes* the need for Governments and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that national HIV strategies and programmes comprehensively target women and girls in vulnerable groups and in populations that epidemiological evidence shows are at higher risk of HIV infection, and to take measures to ensure that HIV services are accessible, non-discriminatory and affordable to them;

7. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the challenges faced by older women in accessing HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, as well as in caring for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, including orphaned children in vulnerable situations;

8. *Encourages* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to scale up efforts to address the vulnerability of women and girls to HIV in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, including prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and continuous provision of antiretroviral treatment;

9. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by women and girls with disabilities, ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

10. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen policy and programme linkages and coordination between HIV and AIDS and sexual and reproductive health, and their inclusion in national development plans, and the need to design gender-based policies aimed at social and economic equality, including poverty reduction strategies and sector-wide approaches, where they exist, as a necessary strategy for fighting the HIV epidemic and mitigating its impact on the population, which could result in more relevant and cost-effective interventions with greater impact;

11. *Urges* Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from HIV infection, principally through the provision of health-care services, including for sexual and reproductive health, and that integrate HIV prevention, treatment, care and support and include voluntary counselling and testing, including through effective HIV prevention education that takes into account the epidemiological and national context, while also recognizing the importance of reducing risk-taking behaviour, and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour, including abstinence and fidelity, delay of sexual debut,

correct and consistent use of condoms and equality between men and women within a culturally and gender-sensitive framework;

12. *Also urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the situation faced by women and girls who provide care and/or economic support for people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS, who are often forced to drop out of school or employment, by increasing the provision of resources, support and facilities to the survivors and caregivers, in particular children, especially in women- and child-headed households, and older persons, as well as to facilitate the balanced sharing of the provision of care by both men and women;

13. *Further urges* Governments to ensure that the rights of children in child-headed households, many of whom have been orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, are respected and that the heads of such households have full enjoyment of all the rights of the child, and to further ensure that children in child-headed households, particularly girls, receive the support they need to ensure their continued attendance in school;

14. *Urges* Governments and other relevant stakeholders to address the situation faced by children and young persons, especially girls, who may be forced into child labour, including the worst forms of child labour, as a result of death or illness of family members or caregivers, and to protect these children and young persons from violence, including gender-based violence, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking and labour exploitation;

15. *Also urges* Governments to take measures to integrate, inter alia, family and community-based approaches in policies and programmes aimed at providing prevention, treatment, care and support to women and girls living with or affected by HIV and AIDS;

16. *Further urges* Governments to ensure, in the context of prevention programmes for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, accessible and affordable procurement of safe and effective prevention commodities, including male and female condoms, post-exposure prophylaxis and, where applicable, pre-exposure prophylaxis, to ensure that their supply is adequate and secure, and to promote ongoing research, including that for safe and effective microbicides;

17. *Urges* Governments:

(a) To commit to remove before 2015, where feasible, obstacles that limit the capacity of low- and middle-income countries to provide affordable and effective HIV prevention and treatment products, diagnostics, medicines and commodities and other pharmaceutical products, as well as treatment for opportunistic infections and co-infections, and to reduce costs associated with lifelong chronic care, including by amending national laws and regulations, as deemed appropriate by respective Governments, so as to optimize: the use, to the full, of existing flexibilities under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) specifically geared to promoting access to and trade in medicines, and, while recognizing the importance of the intellectual property rights regime in contributing to a more effective AIDS response, ensure that

intellectual property rights provisions in trade agreements do not undermine these existing flexibilities, as confirmed in the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, and call for early acceptance of the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 6 December 2005;

(b) To address barriers, regulations, policies and practices that prevent access to affordable HIV treatment by promoting generic competition in order to help reduce costs associated with lifelong chronic care and by encouraging all States to apply measures and procedures for enforcing intellectual property rights in such a manner as to avoid creating barriers to the legitimate trade in medicines, and to provide for safeguards against the abuse of such measures and procedures;

(c) To encourage the voluntary use, where appropriate, of new mechanisms such as partnerships, tiered pricing, open-source sharing of patents and patent pools benefiting all developing countries, including through entities such as the Medicines Patent Pool, to help to reduce treatment costs and encourage development of new HIV treatment formulations, including HIV medicines and point-of-care diagnostics, in particular for children;

18. *Also urges* Governments to strengthen, implement and enforce legal, policy, administrative and other measures for preventing, eliminating and addressing the causes and consequences of all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage, domestic violence, violence at work, verbal and physical abuse, rape, including marital rape, and other forms of sexual violence and coerced sexual activity, battering and trafficking in women and girls, and to ensure that linkages between violence against women and HIV are addressed as an integral part of the national HIV and AIDS response;

19. *Further urges* Governments, where they have not yet done so, to institute and ensure the transparent and effective enforcement of laws and access to redress mechanisms to protect women and girls from child, early and forced marriage and marital rape;

20. *Urges* Governments to prioritize and expand access to treatment for all people, in all settings, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections and co-infections and other HIV-related conditions and the effective use of and adherence to antiretroviral medication, including through access to clinical and laboratory testing and post-exposure prophylaxis, with the full protection of their human rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

21. *Also urges* Governments to promote access to affordable, high-quality, safe and effective drugs and related pharmaceutical commodities and supplies for women and girls for HIV, sexually transmitted infections and maternal health and family planning, and to collect data on treatment

disaggregated by age, sex, disability, geographical location, marital status and continuity of care;

22. *Requests* Governments to promote and provide equal and equitable access for all persons without discrimination, throughout their life cycle, to social services related to health care, safe drinking water and safe sanitation, nutrition, food security, education programmes, including HIV prevention programmes, and social protection schemes, especially for women and girls living with or affected by HIV and AIDS;

23. *Emphasizes* the negative impact of HIV-related stigma, especially for women and girls, in seeking and accessing HIV and AIDS programmes, and urges Governments to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of stigma and discrimination against women and girls in relation to HIV and AIDS, including through strengthening national policies and legislation and challenging gender stereotypes, stigmatization, discriminatory attitudes and gender inequalities, and to encourage the active involvement of men and boys in this regard, and emphasizes the need to develop and implement policies and programmes designed to eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination, so as to ensure the dignity, rights and privacy of people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS;

24. *Stresses* that women and girls should be empowered to protect themselves against violence and that, in this regard, women have the right to exercise control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including their sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence;

25. *Calls upon* all Governments, the international donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to prioritize programmes addressing the specific needs of women and girls, particularly those most vulnerable and at risk, in the HIV response and to take measures to ensure that resources commensurate with the impact of HIV and AIDS on women and girls are made available, in particular in funding provided to national HIV and AIDS programmes designed to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls in the context of the epidemic, to promote economic opportunities for women, including to diminish their financial vulnerability and their risk of exposure to HIV, and to achieve the gender-related goals set out, inter alia, in the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the 2006 and 2011 Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS;

26. *Urges* Governments, the donor community and relevant entities of the United Nations system to support the development of capacities of women's organizations for HIV and AIDS programme development and implementation and to streamline funding procedures and requirements that will facilitate resource flows to community-level services;

27. *Calls upon* Governments to integrate HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including confidential voluntary counselling and testing and elimination of mother-to-child/vertical transmission, with other primary health-care services, including those for tuberculosis and sexual and reproductive health-care services such as family planning, maternal health, and prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, including those causing infertility and cervical cancer, and encourages Governments to strive

towards universal health coverage, meeting the needs of women and girls living with HIV;

28. *Encourages* the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its co-sponsors, bilateral and multilateral donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support to empower women and girls, and engage men and boys, and prevent HIV infection through measures to ensure promotion and effective implementation of combination prevention and to give urgent and priority attention to the situation of women and girls;

29. *Requests* the Secretariat and co-sponsors of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes responding to the HIV and AIDS epidemic, as well as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other international organizations, to mainstream a gender and human rights perspective throughout their HIV- and AIDS-related operations, including policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation, that includes sex- and age-disaggregated indicators, and to ensure that programmes and policies are developed and adequately resourced to address the specific needs of women and girls;

30. *Encourages* the United Nations to continue to support national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the context of the "three ones" principles, to enable the production and dissemination of comprehensive and timely information on the gender dimension of the epidemic, including through the collection of data disaggregated by sex, age, disability, marital status and geographical location, and to raise awareness about the need to address the critical intersection between gender inequality and HIV and AIDS, and encourages Member States to report on the relevant indicators for the global AIDS response progress reporting system;

31. *Stresses* the importance of Governments, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes developing and implementing strategies to improve infant HIV diagnosis, including through access to diagnostics at point of care, significantly increasing and improving access to treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV, including access to prophylaxis and treatments for opportunistic infections, and promoting a smooth transition from paediatric to adult treatment and related support and services, while taking into account the need to put in place programmes focused on delivering services to HIV-negative children born to women living with HIV, as they are still at high risk of morbidity and mortality;

32. *Encourages* Member States to work in partnership with the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, convened by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and its partners, so as to mobilize and support a wide range of national actors, including women's groups and networks of women living with HIV, in order to ensure that national HIV and AIDS programmes are better able to respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women, girls and adolescents;

33. *Welcomes* the Global Plan towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections among Children by 2015 and Keeping their Mothers Alive and takes

note of the Secretary-General's Every Woman, Every Child initiative, as well as national, regional and international initiatives contributing to reduction of the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths, and urges Governments to rapidly scale up access to HIV prevention and treatment programmes integrated with family planning and maternal and child health programmes designed to eliminate mother-to-child vertical transmission of HIV and reduce HIV-related maternal mortality by 50 per cent by 2015, to encourage men to participate with women in such programmes, address barriers faced by women and girls in accessing such programmes and provide sustained treatment and care for the mother after pregnancy, including care and support for the family;

34. *Expresses concern* that the majority of new HIV infections in women occur in marriage or long-term relationships, and encourages the design and implementation of programmes, including awareness-raising programmes, to encourage and enable men, including young men, to adopt safe, non-coercive and responsible sexual and reproductive behaviour and to use effective methods to prevent the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections;

35. *Stresses* the importance of Governments in ensuring that young men and women have access to information and education, including peer education and youth-specific HIV prevention education, including comprehensive sex education, based on full and accurate information, for all adolescents and youth, in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities, with the appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the involvement of children, adolescents, youth, communities, educators and health-care providers, that builds informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills, develops self-esteem and promotes respectful relationships, as well as services necessary for behaviour change so as to enable them to develop the life skills required to reduce their vulnerability to HIV infections and reproductive ill health;

36. *Urges* Governments, employers' and workers' organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to take measures in and through workplaces to prevent and reduce the transmission of HIV and alleviate its impact by ensuring gender equality and the empowerment of women, including ensuring actions to prevent and prohibit violence, discrimination and harassment in the workplace, in line with International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 200 concerning HIV and AIDS and the World of Work, and facilitate provision of current information on HIV and AIDS through employment programmes and services and in vocational training, especially for youth;

37. *Encourages* Governments and all other relevant actors, in the context of prevention programmes for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, to ensure accessible and affordable procurement of safe and effective prevention commodities and to promote funding, both domestically and externally, and to support and expedite action-oriented research leading to affordable, safe and effective methods controlled by women to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, including the use of female condoms, microbicides and vaccines, and research on strategies that empower

women to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and methods of care, support and treatment for women of various ages, and to promote their involvement in all aspects of such research, as well as to ensure that gender-equality implications are a key component of research, implementation and evaluation of new prevention methods and that new prevention methods are part of a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention that protects and supports the rights of women and girls;

38. *Urges* Governments to continue to promote the participation and the significant contribution of people living with HIV, young people and civil society actors, in particular women's organizations, in addressing the problem of HIV and AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender perspective, and to promote their full involvement and participation and leadership in the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of HIV and AIDS programmes, as well as in creating an enabling environment for combating stigmatization and discrimination;

39. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made to date to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which is a pivotal mechanism for achieving universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support by 2015, and urges further contributions to sustain the Global Fund, and calls upon all countries to encourage the private sector to contribute to the Fund;

40. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the drivers and impact of the epidemic, which should be used in planning for comprehensive HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS;

41. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community, relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to intensify their support of national efforts against HIV/AIDS, particularly with respect to women and young girls, including efforts to provide affordable antiretroviral drugs, diagnostics and drugs to treat tuberculosis and other opportunistic infections, strengthening of health systems and training of medical personnel, including reliable distribution and delivery systems, implementation of a strong generic drug policy, bulk purchasing, negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to reduce prices, appropriate financing systems, and encouraging local manufacturing and import practices consistent with national laws and international agreements, particularly in the worst-hit regions in Africa and where the epidemic is severely setting back national development gains;

42. *Urges* the international community to complement and supplement, through increased international development assistance, efforts of the developing countries that commit increased national funds to fighting the HIV and AIDS epidemic, and especially to address the needs of women and girls around the world, in particular in those countries most affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic, particularly in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Caribbean and in regions and countries where HIV incidence is increasing;

43. *Recommends* that a bold vision for addressing the HIV epidemic, including the situation of women and girls living with and affected by HIV and

AIDS, be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

44. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, with an emphasis on accelerated actions taken in regard to women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS, in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the Political Declarations on HIV and AIDS, using information provided by Member States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of women and the girl child.

86. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the revised draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

87. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Netherlands made a statement, on behalf of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, the European Union, the Dominican Republic, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, the United States of America and Uruguay, and proposed three amendments to the revised draft resolution, as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 11, delete the words "delay of sexual debut", after the words "including abstinence and fidelity";

(b) Replace the text of operative paragraph 20, which read:

"Urges Governments to prioritize and expand access to treatment for all people, in all settings, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections and co-infections and other HIV-related conditions and the effective use of and adherence to antiretroviral medication, including through access to clinical and laboratory testing and post-exposure prophylaxis, with the full protection of their human rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions for its further implementation, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;"

With the following text:

"Urges Governments to prioritize and expand access to treatment for all people, in all settings, in a progressive and sustainable manner, including the prevention and treatment of opportunistic infections and co-infections and other HIV-related conditions and the effective use of and adherence to antiretroviral medication, including through access to clinical and laboratory testing and post-exposure prophylaxis, with the full protection of their human rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences;"

(c) In operative paragraph 35, replace the words "including comprehensive sex education" with "including evidence-based education for human sexuality", after the words "youth-specific HIV prevention education".

88. At the 17th meeting, following the statements by the Chair (Philippines), the representative of Pakistan and by the observer for Malawi (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), the Commission adopted the amendment to operative paragraph 11 by a recorded vote of 18 to 15, with 3 abstentions (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 58/3). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Mongolia, Netherlands, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Spain, United States of America, Uruguay.

Against:

Bangladesh, Belarus, Burkina Faso, China, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Liberia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Philippines, Switzerland, Thailand.

89. At the same meeting, following the statements by the representative of the Netherlands and by the observer for Malawi (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), the Commission adopted the amendment to operative paragraph 20 by a recorded vote of 20 to 9, with 3 abstentions (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 58/3). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Mongolia, Netherlands, Paraguay, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Spain, Thailand, United States of America, Uruguay.

Against:

Bangladesh, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Liberia, Pakistan, Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Belarus, Indonesia, Switzerland.

90. Also at the same meeting, following the statements by the representative of the Netherlands and by the observer for Malawi (on behalf of the Southern African Development Community), the Commission adopted the amendment to operative paragraph 35 by a recorded vote of 20 to 13, with 3 abstentions (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 58/3). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Mongolia, Netherlands, Paraguay, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Spain, Thailand, United States of America, Uruguay.

Against:

Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, China, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sudan, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Belarus, Liberia, Switzerland.

91. Before the vote, the representatives of the Comoros, Burkina Faso, Uganda and China, as well as the observers for Malawi, Burundi, Gabon and Kenya, made statements and withdrew their sponsorship of revised draft resolution E/CN.6/2014/L.5, as amended.

92. Statements were also made by the representatives of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Thailand.

93. At the 17th meeting, the Secretary provided clarifications on procedural matters.

94. Also at the 17th meeting, the Commission adopted revised draft resolution E/CN.6/2014/L.5, as amended, by a recorded vote of 22 to none, with 16 abstentions (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 58/3). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Liberia, Mongolia, Netherlands, Paraguay, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Spain, Thailand, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining:

Bangladesh, Belarus, Burkina Faso, China, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sudan, Switzerland, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

95. After the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan, Brazil, and Zimbabwe.

96. A statement was also made by the observer for the Holy See.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

97. At the 15th meeting, on 20 March, the observer for the Plurinational State of Bolivia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women" (E/CN.6/2014/L.6).

98. At the 16th meeting, on 21 March, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

99. Subsequently, Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

100. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union) and Switzerland, the Commission adopted the draft resolution by a recorded vote of 22 to 1, with 10 abstentions, and

recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its adoption (see chap. I, sect. B). The voting was as follows:[52]

In favour:

Argentina, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libya, Mongolia, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland.

101. After the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and Japan, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

Agreed conclusions on challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls

102. At the 17th meeting, on 21 March, the Commission had before it the draft agreed conclusions entitled "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls", as contained in an informal paper and submitted by the Chair of the Commission, Libran Cabactulan (Philippines), on the basis of informal consultations.

103. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft agreed conclusions and decided to transmit them to the 2014 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 (see chap. I, sect. A).

104. After the adoption of the draft agreed conclusions, statements were made by the representatives of Libya, El Salvador, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Argentina, the United States of America, Liberia, the Russian Federation, the Sudan, Pakistan, Brazil, China, Finland and Belarus, as well as by the observers for Djibouti (on behalf of the African Group), Mexico, Egypt, Qatar, Malta, Suriname (on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)), Costa Rica (also on behalf of Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Peru), South Africa, Australia, Norway and Colombia.

105. A statement was made by the observer for the Holy See.

106. A statement was made by the observer for the European Union.

Documents considered by the Commission on the Status of Women

107. At its 17th meeting, on 21 March, the Commission decided to take note of a number of documents before it under the agenda item (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 58/101).

[52] The delegations of the Gambia, Malaysia and the Sudan indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

Chapter III
Communications concerning the status of women

108. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 14th (closed) meeting, on 19 March. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (see para. 110 below);[53]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications and replies by Governments concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2014/SW/COMM.LIST/48/R and Add.1).

Action taken by the Commission
Report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

109. At its 14th meeting (closed), on 19 March, the Commission considered the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women.

110. At the same meeting (closed), the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Working Group and to incorporate it in the report of the Commission on its fifty-eighth session. The report of the Working Group read as follows:

1. The Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women met in closed meetings before the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2002/235 and was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given to it by the Council in its resolution 76 (V), as amended by the Council in its resolutions 304 I (XI), 1983/27, 1992/19, 1993/11 and 2009/16.

2. The Working Group considered the list of confidential communications and replies by Governments (E/CN.6/2014/SW/COMM.LIST/48/R and Add.1). There was no list of non-confidential communications concerning the status of women, since no such communications had been received by the Secretary-General.

3. The Working Group considered the 67 confidential communications, comprising 73 cases addressed to 49 States, received directly by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The Working Group noted that no confidential communications concerning the status of women had been received from other United Nations bodies or the specialized agencies.

4. The Working Group noted that there were 33 replies from 18 Governments.

5. The Working Group recalled its mandate as defined in paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, which stated that the Working Group should perform the following functions:

(a) Consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those communications, including the replies of Governments,

[53] The report was circulated internally under document symbol E/CN.6/2014/CRP.2.

which appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women;

(b) Preparation of a report, based on its analysis of the confidential and non-confidential communications, which would indicate the categories in which communications were most frequently submitted to the Commission.

6. The Working Group noted that a number of communications of a general nature had been submitted, as well as communications alleging specific cases of discrimination against individual women and girls.

7. The Working Group discerned the following categories in which communications had most frequently been submitted to the Commission:

(a) Sexual violence against women and girls, including rape, marital rape and rape within the family, forced prostitution, sexual exploitation and sexual harassment, including in the workplace, committed by private individuals, military and law enforcement personnel;

(b) Other forms of violence against women and girls, including murder, domestic violence, child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, coerced abortion, forced sterilization, and trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation;

(c) Abuse of power by law enforcement officials and military forces, lack of due process and delays in proceedings, arbitrary arrest and detention, and failure to grant a fair trial and prevent impunity;

(d) Pressure exerted on victims of violence by private individuals and law enforcement officials, often preventing them from filing complaints or leading them to withdraw their complaints;

(e) Inhuman and degrading treatment, torture, sexual violence and inadequate conditions for women in detention and penitentiary systems;

(f) Serious and systematic violations of the human rights of women and girls, some of which target vulnerable groups, such as indigenous women, women and girls with disabilities, migrant women and women belonging to minorities, including ethnic and religious minorities, including harassment, detention, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, rape, torture and abduction;

(g) Intimidation, violence, harassment, including sexual harassment, torture, rape and detention of women human rights defenders, and restrictions on the right to freedom of expression of women human rights defenders, as a means of exerting pressure on them to stop their activities;

(h) Violations of the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights as stipulated in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, of women and girls, including in medical facilities, and restricted access to services, including gynaecological and obstetric services, discrimination on the basis of HIV-positive status and discrimination against women drug users;

(i) Discrimination resulting from stereotypical practices and attitudes towards women, including through and in the media, in the areas of education and employment and during legal proceedings in the courts;

(j) Absence of adequate legislation to address and eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women;

(k) Ineffective implementation and/or enforcement of laws aimed at promoting and protecting women's human rights;

(l) Legislation and/or stereotypical practices that discriminate against women in the areas of:

(i) Civil and political rights, including freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of movement;

(ii) Personal status, nationality and marriage;

(iii) The right to property and inheritance;

(iv) Employment;

(v) Education, including access to education;

(vi) Access to justice;

(m) Failure by States, resulting in a climate of impunity, to exercise due diligence to prevent violence and discrimination against women and girls, and to adequately and in a timely manner investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators, failure by States to provide adequate protection and support, including medical and psychological treatment, for victims, failure to enact adequate legislation to prevent violence, including sexual violence, and discrimination, and failure by States to ensure access to justice, some of which may lead to stigmatization and revictimization.

8. During its consideration of all communications, including the replies of Governments thereon, and consideration of the question of whether any of these appeared to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women, the Working Group expressed its concern about:

(a) Violence against women and girls, including rape and other forms of sexual violence and domestic violence, as well as harassment and detention of women human rights defenders;

(b) Child, early and forced marriage, and its adverse effects on the full enjoyment by women and girls of their fundamental rights;

(c) Violations of the right of women to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and discrimination against vulnerable groups of women in access to health care;

(d) The persistence of gender stereotypes;

(e) The continued existence of legislation or practices in many areas that discriminate against women or have the effect of discriminating against women, despite States' international obligations and commitments;

(f) Discrimination and violence against vulnerable groups of women and girls;

(g) The persisting climate of impunity and abuse of power, including where discrimination and violence against women, including sexual violence, is perpetrated or condoned by law enforcement personnel;

(h) The failure by States, in contravention of their human rights obligations, to exercise due diligence to prevent all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and adequately investigate and prosecute such crimes, punish perpetrators and provide protection and assistance to victims.

9. The Working Group expressed appreciation for the cooperation extended by the Governments that had submitted replies or clarifying observations with respect to the communications received, recognizing their importance. Noting the gap between the number of communications and the number of replies received, the Working Group called upon all Governments that had not done so to make such submissions in the future. The Working Group considered such cooperation essential for it to discharge its duties effectively. From the replies received, the Working Group was encouraged to note that some Governments had carried out investigations into the allegations made, explained their positions or taken measures, including improving the enforcement of existing legislation; introducing programmes and services, such as health-related services, to better protect and assist women, including women victims of violence; prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of violence; making efforts to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights by women; and improving public awareness-raising activities and training to promote gender equality and the advancement of women in accordance with relevant international standards.

Chapter IV

Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

111. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 15th meeting, on 20 March.

112. At the 15th meeting, the Chair of the Commission, Libran Cabactulan (Philippines), drew the attention of the Commission to the following documents issued under the item:

(a) Letter dated 20 December 2013 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2014/9);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/1 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2014/10).

113. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Commission took note of the documents (see chap. I, sect. D).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission

114. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 17th meeting, on 21 March. It had before it the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/2014/L.2).

115. At the 17th meeting, the Commission approved the draft provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-ninth session and recommended them to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. C).

Chapter VI

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-eighth session

116. At the 17th meeting, on 21 March, the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, Mohamed Elbahi (Sudan), introduced the draft report of the Commission on its fifty-eighth session, as contained in document E/CN.6/2014/L.1.

117. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report on its fifty-eighth session and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

118. The Commission on the Status of Women held its fifty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters on 15 March 2013 and from 10 to 21 March 2014. The Commission held 17 meetings (1st to 17th).

119. The session was opened on 10 March 2014 by the Vice-Chair, Neli Shiolashvili (Georgia). At the same meeting, the Commission elected the Chair, Libran Cabactulan (Philippines), who made a statement.

120. Also at the same meeting, on 10 March, the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Commission.

121. At the same meeting, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

122. At its 5th meeting, on 11 March, statements were made by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Chair of the Non-Governmental Organization Committee on the Status of Women.

123. At its 6th meeting, on 12 March, the President of the Economic and Social Council (Austria) addressed the Commission.

B. Attendance

124. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in document E/CN.6/2014/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

125. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, the officers are elected to the Bureau of the Commission for a term of office of two years. The following officers were elected at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the fifty-eighth session, on 15 March 2013 and 10 March 2014, to serve on the Bureau of the Commission at its fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions.

Chair:

Libran Cabactulan (Philippines), for the fifty-eighth session (2014) only

Vice-Chairs:

Carlos Enriquez Garcia González (El Salvador)
Neli Shiolashvili (Georgia), for the fifty-eighth session (2014) only
Christine Löw (Switzerland)

Vice-Chair and Rapporteur:
Mohamed Elbahi (Sudan)

D. Agenda and organization of work

126. At its 2nd meeting, on 10 March 2014, the Commission adopted its agenda as contained in document E/CN.6/2014/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Priority theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls;
      (ii) Review theme: access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men: women's access to productive resources;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-eighth session.

127. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.6/2014/1/Add.1.

E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women

128. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, the Commission established a working group to consider communications concerning the status of women. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/16, the following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed to the Working Group for the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions:

Bernadette S. Ntaba Kadyamusuma (Zimbabwe)
Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh)
Galina Khvan (Russian Federation)
Bruno Santos de Oliveira (Brazil)
Noa Furman (Israel)

F. Documentation

129. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-eighth session is available from: www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw58-2014/official-documents.

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